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Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir,

Transmitted herewith for filing is the Patent application of Inventor: s : Masayuki TERADA, Ko FUJIMURA,
Hiroshi KUNO, Masayuki HANADATE

For: ORIGINAL DATA CIRCULATION METHOD.

Enclosed are: SYSTEM, APPARATUS, AND COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUM

☒ Twenty-One (21) sheets of drawing.

☒ An assignment of the invention to NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CORPORATION
3-1 Otemachi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8116, Japan

☒ A certified copy of a Japanese SN 11-039080 (2/17/99) and 11-247457 (9/1/99) application.

☐ A verified statement to establish small entry status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27.

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| SMALL | ENTITY |
|-------|--------|
| RATE | FEE |
| | 345.00 |
| 9 | \$ |
| 39 | \$ |
| 130 | \$ |
| TOTAL | \$ |

| OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| RATE | FEE |
| | 690.00 |
| 18 | \$ 918. |
| 78 | \$ 1,716. |
| 260 | \$ --- |
| TOTAL | \$ 3,324.00 |

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*original data circulated
method, system, apparatus
& computer readable medium*

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, Masayuki Terada, a citizen of Japan residing at Yokosuka-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan, Ko Fujimura, a citizen of Japan residing at Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan, Hiroshi Kuno, a citizen of Japan residing at Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan and Masayuki Hanadate, a citizen of Japan residing at Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan have invented certain new and useful improvements in

ORIGINAL DATA CIRCULATION METHOD, SYSTEM,
APPARATUS, AND COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUM

of which the following is a specification:-

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

ORIGINAL DATA CIRCULATION METHOD, SYSTEM,
APPARATUS, AND COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUM

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention generally relates to
an original data circulation method, system
apparatus, and computer readable medium. More
10 particularly, the present invention relates to
providing technologies for storing and distributing
data such as a digital ticket which represents a
digital right, digital contents and the like, in
which the number of valid reproductions of such data
15 needs to be smaller than a defined number.

2. Description of the Related Art

Reproductions of data or a digital ticket
which represents a digital right exceeding the
number which the data distributor intends should be
20 prevented. That is, distributed data that is
reproduced by a user illegally should be prevented.
Conventionally, such multiple use is
prevented by technologies described in the following.

A first method is that transfer histories
25 of the original data are attached to the data and
they are used to check whether the data is already
used or not at the time of request for exercising
the right. If the right is already used up, the
service provider (or collector) of the data refuses
30 accepting the right represented by the data.

A second method is to store the data in a
tamper-proof device such that the data cannot be
accessed except via the tamper-proof device. When
the data is used up, the data is deleted from the
35 tamper-proof device.

According to the above-mentioned first
method, a special device such as the tamper-proof

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device is not necessary. However, a problem comes up when the data is circulated. More specifically, validity of the data can be checked only when the right is exercised according to the first method.

- 5 Therefore, there is a problem that the validity of the data can not be judged while the data is circulating.

- According to the above-mentioned second method, uniqueness of the data can be protected by using the tamper-proof device. In addition, methods which are described in Japanese patent application No.6-503913 or Japanese laid-open patent application No.9-511350 can be used together with the above-mentioned second method, in which a plurality of tamper-proof devices are connected via secure communication routes which are protected by cryptography. The data is exchanged via the communication routes such that the data can be circulated while preventing reproduction of the data.
- 10
- 15
- 20 However, the technology has the following two problems since the data needs to be stored in the tamper-proof device.

- First, it becomes impossible to view the description of the data. Therefore, there is a constraint that all checks such as a check of the validity period of the description should be left to the tamper-proof device.
- 25

- In addition, since the tamper-proof device should not only have a storing part of the data but also carry out all processing necessary for handling the data, a large storage capacity and a high processing throughput are required for the tamper-proof device. Especially, an IC card which is generally used for the tamper-proof device does not have enough storage capacity or processing throughput.
- 30
- 35

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide an original data circulation method, a system, an apparatus and a computer readable medium
5 in which it is ensured that the number of valid reproductions of data is maintained below a specified number. In addition, the tamper-proof device does not necessarily perform all verifications other than the verification on
10 reproducing such that processing load such as processing throughput or memory capacity can be decreased.

The above object of the present invention is achieved by an original data circulation system
15 for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, the system comprising:
an apparatus including: means for generating first information corresponding to an issuer apparatus for issuing data; means for sending
20 the first information; and means for sending second information corresponding to the data; and
an apparatus including: means for verifying validity of the first information which is received; means for verifying that an issuing
25 apparatus corresponding to valid first information is valid; and means for determining that data corresponding to the second information is valid when the issuer apparatus is valid.

The first information may be, for example,
30 after-mentioned H(PkI) or the like. The second information may be a hash value of data or a hash value of data with a signature. The issuer apparatus is determined to be valid, for example, when the source apparatus of the first information
35 and an apparatus corresponding to the first information are the same. Since a tamper-proof apparatus and the like performs an authentication

process using the first information, the above-mentioned problem is solved and the processing load can be decreased.

The above object of the present invention
5 is also achieved by a data storing method of storing digital information which has a value, comprising the steps of:

generating third information which is
digital information with a signature signed by an
10 issuer apparatus for the digital information;
generating, by the issuer apparatus,
fourth information, the fourth information being a
manifest corresponding to the digital information;
15 of the issuer apparatus by using the third
information and the fourth information; and
preventing reproduction of the digital
information.

The fourth information may be, for example,
20 a hash value of the data with the signature. The
hash value is the manifest which corresponds to
originality information. The originality
information is information which represents
genuineness of the right of data. In other words,
25 the originality information represents the
authenticity or originality of data.

According to the above-mentioned invention,
data and the signature of the data are stored and a
manifest which is information in one-to-one
30 correspondence with the data and the signature. In
addition, the signer who generates the signature is
identified and it is verified that the signer is the
same as the party which intends to store the
manifest. Thus, the number of manifests which the
35 signer intends are stored in the data storing system.

The data storing method may further
comprise the steps of:

verifying identity of the issuer apparatus
by storing the fourth information in a tamper-proof
device; and

5 preventing reproduction of the digital
information.

Accordingly, the data can be stored in an
apparatus other than the data storing system since
the tamper-proof device is used.

The above object of the present invention
10 is also achieved by a data storing system for
storing digital information which has a value,
comprising:

an issuer apparatus for generating third
information which is digital information with a
15 signature and generating the fourth information
which is a manifest corresponding to the digital
information; and

a user apparatus for verifying identity of
the issuer apparatus by using the third information
20 and the fourth information; and

preventing reproduction of the digital
information.

The above object of the present invention
is also achieved by a user apparatus for using
25 digital information in a data storing system for
storing digital information which has a value,
comprising:

first storing means for storing and
extracting digital information with a signature;

30 second storing means for storing and
extracting a manifest corresponding to digital
information;

first authentication means for verifying
that the manifest is valid; and

35 first control means for storing the
manifest in the second storing means only when the
first authentication means verifies that the

manifest is valid.

Accordingly, by determining that the data is valid only when the manifest corresponding to the data is stored in the data storing system, having
5 valid data exceeding the number of manifests that exist can be avoided.

The above object of the present invention is also achieved by an issuer apparatus for issuing digital information in a data storing system for
10 storing digital information which has a value, the issuer apparatus comprising:

accredited information generation means for generating accredited information which includes a set of information representing an accredited
15 object trusted by the signer of the digital information;

signature means for providing a signature to the digital information and to the accredited information;

20 manifest generation means for generating the manifest;

means for sending the digital information and the accredited information to a user apparatus;

means for receiving session information
25 which includes a verification key of the user apparatus and a serial number; and

means for sending information including the manifest and the session information by using a verification key and a signature function of the
30 issuer apparatus.

Accordingly, there is an accredited object trusted by the signer of the data and a signature signed by the issuer apparatus. It is verified that the signer of the manifest is included in the
35 accredited objects or in the signers trusted by the accredited object. In addition, it is verified that the signer of the accredited information and the

signer of the data are the same. Accordingly, the manifest can be transmitted only via a route trusted by the signer of the data. At the time, the tamper-proof capability is assured by using the tamper-
5 proof apparatus.

The above object of the present invention is also achieved by a collector apparatus for exercising a right of digital information in a data storing system for storing digital information which
10 has a value, the collector apparatus comprising:

means for receiving digital information with a signature of the issuer and accredited information with the signature from a user
apparatus;

15 means for generating session information which has uniqueness in the data storing system and sending the session information to the user apparatus;

means for receiving information including
20 the manifest and the session information from the user apparatus; and

means for verifying that the session information, the manifest and the accredited information are valid.

25 Accordingly, by generating and storing the session information, it becomes possible to avoid the manifest being stored in a plurality of storing parts without using an encrypted route. In addition, it becomes possible to send a plurality of manifests
30 to a storing part in parallel.

The above-mentioned inventions will be described in the first embodiment in detail. In addition, the following inventions will be described in the second embodiment in detail.

35 The above object of the present invention is also achieved by an original data circulation method in an original data circulation system for

storing or circulating original data which is digital information, the method comprising:

5 a sending step of sending, by a first apparatus, originality information, the originality information including fifth information which corresponds to an apparatus and sixth information which is data or information corresponding to the data; and

10 an identifying step of identifying, by a second apparatus, the source apparatus of the originality information;

a first authentication step of determining that the originally information is valid when the source apparatus is authenticated; and

15 a second authentication step of determining that the originality information is valid only when the source apparatus and an apparatus corresponding to the fifth information of the originality information are the same.

20 The above object of the present invention is also achieved by an original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, the system comprising:

25 a first apparatus which includes sending means for sending originality information, the originality information including fifth information which corresponds to an apparatus and sixth information which is data or information corresponding to the data; and

30 a second apparatus which includes: identifying means for identifying a source apparatus of the originality information;

35 a first authentication means for determining that the originally information is valid when the source apparatus is authenticated; and

a second authentication means for determining the originality information is valid

only when the source apparatus and an apparatus corresponding to the fifth information of the originality information are the same.

The above-mentioned originality
5 information will be called token in the second embodiment. The fifth information may be, for example, a hash value of a verification key (public key) of an apparatus. The sixth information may be, for example, a hash value of the data. According to
10 the above-mentioned invention, since the second authentication means determines that the originality information is valid only when the source apparatus and an apparatus corresponding to the first information are the same, the conventional problem
15 can be solved. In addition, since it is not necessary to circulate the signature, the processing load can be further decreased.

The above object of the present invention is also achieved by an issuer apparatus in an
20 original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, the issuer apparatus comprising:
originality information generation means
for generating originality information which
25 includes fifth information corresponding to the issuer apparatus and sixth information corresponding to data or information corresponding to the data;
and

originality information sending means for
30 sending the originality information.

The above object of the present invention is also achieved by a user apparatus in an original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, the user
35 apparatus comprising:

originality information sending means for sending originality information which includes fifth

information corresponding an apparatus and sixth information corresponding to data or information corresponding to the data;

identifying means for identifying a source
5 apparatus of the originality information which is sent from an apparatus;

authentication means for determining that the originality information is valid when the source apparatus is authenticated or when the apparatus
10 corresponding to the fifth information and the source apparatus are the same; and

storing means for storing the originality information when the authentication means determines that the originality information is valid.

15 The above object of the present invention is also achieved by a collector apparatus in an original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, the collector apparatus comprising:

20 identifying means for identifying a source apparatus of originality information;

authentication means for authenticating the source apparatus; and

data processing means for performing a
25 process corresponding to the data or data corresponding to the sixth information when the authentication means determines that the originality information which is sent to the collector apparatus is valid.

30 In the present invention, since accredited information which represents a trusted third party may be used, the originality information can be circulated between trusted parties.

The above object of the present invention
35 is also achieved by an original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, the original data

circulation system comprising:

an issuer apparatus including:

first originality information generation
means for generating originality information which
5 includes fifth information corresponding to the
issuer apparatus and sixth information corresponding
to data or information corresponding to the data;
and

first originality information sending
10 means for sending the originality information;
a user apparatus including:

first originality information sending
means for sending originality information which
includes fifth information corresponding to an
15 apparatus and sixth information corresponding to
data or information corresponding to the data;

first identifying means for identifying a
source apparatus of the originality information
which is sent from an apparatus;

20 first authentication means for determining
that the originality information is valid when the
source apparatus is authenticated or when the
apparatus corresponding to the fifth information and
the source apparatus is the same; and

25 storing means for storing the originality
information when the first authentication means
determines that the originality information is
valid; and

a collector apparatus including:
30 sixth identifying means for identifying a
source apparatus of originality information;

sixth authentication means for
authenticating the source apparatus; and

35 data processing means for performing a
process corresponding to the data or data
corresponding to the sixth information when the
second authentication means determines that the

originality information which is sent to the collector apparatus is valid.

Accordingly, it becomes possible to issue a ticket, transfer the ticket, consume and present the ticket in the above apparatuses.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig.1 is a diagram for describing a principle according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.2 is a block diagram of a data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.3 is a block diagram of an issuer apparatus of the data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.4 is a block diagram of a user apparatus of the data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.5 is a block diagram of a collector apparatus of the data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.6 is a block diagram of a connection apparatus of the data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.7 is a sequence chart showing a ticket issuing process in the data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.8 is a sequence chart showing a ticket transferring process in the data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.9 is a sequence chart showing a ticket transferring process in the data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig.10 is a sequence chart showing a ticket consuming process in the data storing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig.11 is a diagram for describing a principle according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

15 Figs.12A and 12B are block diagrams of a data storing system in an original data circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

20 Fig.13 is a block diagram of an issuer apparatus of the original data circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

25 Fig.14 is a block diagram of a user apparatus of the original data circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

30 Fig.15 is a block diagram of a collector apparatus of the original data circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

35 Fig.16 is a block diagram of a connection apparatus of the original data circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

 Fig.17 is a sequence chart showing a ticket issuing process in the original data circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

 Fig.18 is a sequence chart showing a ticket transferring process in the original data

circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.19 is a sequence chart showing a ticket transferring process in the original data circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.20 is a sequence chart showing a ticket consuming process in the original data circulation system according to the second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig.21 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a computer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

(First Embodiment)

First, a data storing system as an original data circulation system of the present invention will be described.

Fig.1 is a diagram for describing a principle of the present invention. In the data storing system of the present invention, an issuer apparatus of digital information generates first information by adding a digital signature to the digital information in step 1. The issuer apparatus generates second information which is a manifest corresponding to the digital information and adds the second information to the first information in step 2. A user apparatus checks the identity of the issuer apparatus by using the first information and the second information such that the unauthorized reproduction of the digital information can be prevented in step 3.

In the first embodiment, a digital ticket that is a digital representation of a right to claim services or goods, are used as an example of digital information to be circulated.

Fig.2 shows a block diagram of the data

storing system. As shown in the figure, an issuer issues a digital ticket. Then, the user transfers the digital ticket to another user. When a user who receives the digital ticket uses the digital ticket,
5 a verifier verifies validity of the digital ticket.

In the figure, the issuer of the digital ticket has an issuer apparatus 1 and the user who receives the digital ticket has a user apparatus 2. When issuing a digital ticket, a communication
10 channel between the issuer apparatus 1 and the user apparatus 2 is established via a connection apparatus 4. The communication channel may exist only during the period from the issuing start time to the issuing end time.

When transferring the digital ticket, a communication channel is established between the user apparatuses 2 via the communication apparatus 4 in the same way as when issuing the digital ticket. Then, the digital ticket is transferred between the
20 user apparatuses 2. A collector of the digital tickets has a collector apparatus 3. When collecting the digital tickets, a communication channel is established between the user apparatus 2 and the collector apparatus 3 via the communication
25 apparatus 4 in the same way as when issuing the digital ticket. Then, the digital ticket is sent to the collector apparatus 3.

As mentioned above, the data storing system of the present invention includes one or a
30 plurality of issuer apparatuses, one or a plurality of user apparatuses 2 and one or a plurality of collector apparatuses 3 which apparatuses are connected by connection apparatuses 4 which provide temporal communication channels.

35 In the following, each of the apparatuses which are included in the data storing system will be described. Before the description, meanings of

formulas which will be used for the description will be described.

$x \parallel y$ means concatenation of x and y . H means a unidirectional hash function. The hash function has
5 the property that determining x from y which satisfies $y=H(x)$ is difficult. MD5 of RSA is known as a hash function.

S_{pk} is a signature function which generates a digital signature which can be verified
10 by a verification function V_{pk} . The verification function V_{pk} has the property of $V_{pk}(x \parallel S_{pk}(x))=1$, $V_{pk}(x \parallel \text{other})=0$ ($\text{other} \neq S_{pk}(x)$). That is, the verification function V_{pk} can verify that information x has a signature signed by the signature function
15 S_{pk} . In addition, the verification function V_{pk} can verify that the digital signature $S_{pk}(x)$ is a correct signature signed by S_{pk} for x .

P_k is a verification key and has the property that V_{pk} can be formed by providing the
20 verification key P_k to a verifier V . Especially, a verification key $Pk2 \parallel S_{pk1}(Pk2)$ is called as a key certificate of $Pk2$ by $Pk1$.

ESIGN of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation is known as a digital signature method
25 which realizes the above-mentioned S_{pk} and V_{pk} .

Fig.3 shows an issuer apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention.

The issuer apparatus 1 shown in the figure includes a control part 11, a signature part 12, a
30 data generation part 13, a manifest generation part 14 and an accredited information generation part 15.

The control part 11 has a verification key PkI and controls the issuer apparatus 1 to circulate a digital ticket securely. PkI is a verification
35 key corresponding to a signature function S_{pkI} provided in the signature part 12. A detailed description on the control part 11 will be given

later.

The signature part 12 includes the signature function S_{PKI} . Each issuer apparatus has a different signature function S_{PKI} . The signature
5 function S_{PKI} is concealed by the signature part 12.

The data generation part 13 generates data m on the basis of information generated in the issuer apparatus 1 or information given from the outside. According to the data storing system of
10 the present invention, there is no restriction for the contents of the data m . Therefore, digital information representing rights of general tickets such as a concert ticket, program data, music data and image data can be used as the data m .

In addition, m can be formed as relation to other data or as data including relation to other data by obtaining $H(m_0)$ in which m_0 is provided from the outside. Accordingly, data amount sent to an
15 after-mentioned tamper-proof device 28 can be decreased when issuing a digital ticket.

The manifest generation part 14 has the unidirectional hash function H and generates a manifest $c_{(m, PKI)} = H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m))$ of data with a
20 signature $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$.

The accredited information generation part 15 generates accredited information $t = (t_i, t_c)$. In the accredited information $t = (t_i, t_c)$, $t_i = PKI$, $t_c = \{H(PKC_1), H(PKC_2), \dots, H(PKC_n)\}$. Here, PKI is a verification key held by the control part 11, and
25 PKC_i is a verification key for verifying a signature signed by an after-mentioned third party which is "trusted" by the issuer.

Fig.4 is a user apparatus 2 according to an embodiment of the present invention. The user
35 apparatus 2 includes a control part 21, a storing part 22 and the tamper-proof device 28 which has a control part 23, an authentication part 24, a

signature part 25, a number generation part 26 and a storing part 27. The tamper-proof device 28 protects functions and contents of the parts from tampering. Even the user of the tamper-proof device 28 can not tamper with the tamper-proof device 28. An IC card or a server which is stringently managed by a third party via a network can be used as the tamper-proof device 28.

The control part 21 and the control part 23 in the tamper-proof device 28 control the user apparatus 2 for circulating a digital ticket securely. The detailed description of the control part 21 will be described later.

The storing part 22 stores a set M_u of data with a signature which is held by the user and a set T_u of accredited information with a signature signed by an issuer. The sets can be updated by the control part 21.

The control part 23 has verification keys PkU and PkC , and a key certificate $PkU \parallel S_{PkC}(PkU)$. Here, the verification key PkU corresponds to S_{PkU} in the signature part 25. S_{PkC} is a signature function concealed by a third party which assures security of the tamper-proof device 28. The third party may be an IC card manufacturer, a tamper-proof server administrator or the like. That is, tamper-proof capability of the tamper-proof device 28 which includes the signature function S_{PkU} is assured by the third party which has the signature function S_{PkC} . A detailed description of the control part 23 will be given later. PkC is a verification key of S_{PkC} .

A storing part 22 of another user apparatus and/or a storing part 34 of an after-mentioned collector apparatus 3 can be used with the storing part 22 or instead of the storing part 22. In such a case, since data m and after-mentioned accredited information (t_1, t_2, t_3) can be shared by

the user apparatuses and the collector apparatuses, the data m and the accredited information (t_1 , t_2 , t_3) are not necessarily sent between the apparatuses.

The authentication part 24 includes a
5 verifier V. The signature part 25 includes the signature function S_{pkU} . Each of the user apparatuses have different S_{pkU} . S_{pkU} is concealed by the signature part 25.

The number generation part 26 stores a
10 next number r_v . When the number generation part 26 is required to issue a number, the number generation part 26 issues a current number r_v and increments r_v .

The storing part 27 stores a set of
manifests $C_v=\{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$ and a set of numbers
15 $R_v=\{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_m\}$. These sets can be updated by the control part 21.

Fig.5 is a block diagram of the collector
apparatus 3 according to an embodiment of the
present invention. The collector apparatus 3
20 includes a control part 31, an authentication part 32, a number generation part 33 and a storing part 34.

The control part 31 has a verification key
 PkV and controls the collector apparatus 3 for
25 circulating the digital ticket securely. The detailed description of the operation of the control part 31 will be given later.

The authentication part 32 includes a
verifier V.

30 The number generation part 33 stores a next number r_v . When the number generation part 33 is required to issue a number, the number generation part 33 issues a current number r_v and increments r_v .

The storing part 34 stores a set of
35 numbers $R_v=\{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_m\}$. The set can be updated by the control part 31.

Fig.6 is a block diagram of the connection

apparatus 4 according to an embodiment of the present invention.

The connection apparatus 4 includes a communication part 41. The communication part 41 provides a temporal or permanent communication channel between the issuer apparatus 1, the user apparatus 2 and the collector apparatus 3, or between the user apparatuses. A terminal with an IC card slot at a kiosk, a plurality of PCs which are connected via network or the like can be used as the connection apparatus 4.

A method for circulating the digital ticket securely by using the above-mentioned apparatuses will be described in the following.

Basic concepts of the circulation method are shown below.

- The digital ticket is represented by data with a signature by an issuer $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$. Contents of a right which is given to an owner of the digital ticket by the issuer are described in m . Otherwise, m includes a relation to data in which contents of the right are described.

- Tampering with the digital ticket can be prevented by using the signature function S_{PKI} of the issuer of the digital ticket.

- Reproduction of the digital ticket is not prohibited.

- A manifest $C_{(m, PKI)}$ can be generated from the digital ticket. The manifest is substantially in a one-to-one correspondence with the digital ticket.

- The manifest becomes valid by being stored in the storing part 27 of the tamper-proof device 28 trusted by the issuer.

- The tamper-proof device trusted by the issuer is a device in which the tamper-proof capability is insured by a party trusted by the

issuer. The party trusted by the issuer is defined by an accredited information t_i .

- A valid manifest can be newly generated only by the issuer of the corresponding digital ticket.

- It is prohibited to generate one or a plurality of valid manifests from a valid manifest. That is, the user is prohibited from generating a manifest of a digital ticket which is signed by others.

In the following, the circulation method of a digital ticket will be described for each of the cases of (1) Issuing a digital ticket, (2) Transferring a digital ticket and (3) Consuming a digital ticket. In the following description, communication between the apparatuses is carried out via the communication part 41 of the connection apparatus 4.

(1) Issuing a digital ticket

The process for issuing a digital ticket from the issuer apparatus 1 to the user apparatus 2 via the connection apparatus 4 is shown below. Fig.7 is a sequence chart of the process according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Step 101) The control part 11 obtains m and $S_{PKI}(m)$ according to the following procedure to generate a digital ticket $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ which is data with a signature.

(a) The data generation part 13 generates data m .

(b) m is given to the signature part 12 such that the signature part 12 generates $S_{PKI}(m)$.

Step 102) The control part 11 provides the digital ticket $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ to the manifest generation part 14 such that the manifest generation part 14 generates a manifest $C_{(m, PKI)}$.

Step 103) The control part 11 obtains

accredited information t and a signature function $S_{PKI}(t)$ according to the following procedure and generates accredited information with a signature $t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)$.

5 (a) The accredited information generation part 15 generates the accredited information t . The configuration of t was described before.

(b) The accredited information t is provided to the signature part 12 such that the signature
10 part 12 generates the signature $S_{PKI}(t)$.

Step 104) The control part 11 sends the digital ticket $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ and the accredited information with a signature $t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)$ to the control part 21.

15 In step 101, when m which is generated by the data generation part 13 is a relation to other data, for example, $m = H(m_0)$, or when m includes the relation, the related data (m_0) is sent as necessary, which is the same as the cases of after-
20 mentioned transferring and consuming.

Step 105) The control part 21 of the user apparatus 2 adds the digital ticket $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ in the set M_U , adds the accredited information with the signature $t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)$ in the set T_U and stores them in
25 the storing part 22.

When data related to m is sent, the relation is verified. If the verification fails, the process is interrupted and the issuer apparatus is notified of it. This is the same as in the case
30 of after-mentioned transferring and consuming.

Step 106) The control part 21 requests to generate session information (s_1, s_2) to the control part 23.

35 The control part 23 generates the session information (s_1, s_2) according to the following procedure and sends it to the control part 21.

(a) The control part 23 obtains a number r_U

generated by the number generation part 26.

(b) The number r_v is added to a number set R_v in the storing part 27.

(c) The session information $(s_1, s_2) = (H(PkU), r_v)$ is generated. Here, PkU is a verification key held by the control part 21.

Step 107) The control part 21 sends the session information (s_1, s_2) to the control part 11.

Step 108) The control part 11 obtains a manifest issuing format $e_i = (e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5)$ by using S_{PKI} in the signature part 12 and the verification key PkI retained by the control part 11. Each element in e_i is shown below.

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 &= C_{(m, PkI)} \\ e_2 &= s_1 \\ e_3 &= s_2 \\ e_4 &= S_{PKI}(C_{(m, PkI)} \parallel s_1 \parallel s_2) \\ e_5 &= PkI \end{aligned}$$

Step 109) The control part 11 sends the manifest issuing format e_i to the control part 21.

Step 110) The control part 21 sends the digital ticket $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ and the manifest issuing format e_i to the control part 23 and requests to store the manifest in e_i .

Step 111) The control part 23 verifies that following conditions are satisfied by using the authentication part 24. If the verification fails, the process after that is interrupted and the control part 23 notifies the control part 11 of the process interruption via the control part 21.

$$\begin{aligned} e_2 &= H(PkU) & (1) \\ e_3 &\in R_v & (2) \\ V_{e_5}(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)) &= 1 & (3) \\ V_{e_5}(e_1 \parallel e_2 \parallel e_3 \parallel e_4) &= 1 & (4) \\ e_1 &= H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)) & (5) \end{aligned}$$

The above-mentioned formulas (1) and (2) mean verification of validity of the session

information. According to the verification, fraud can be prevented. Such fraud may be, for example, storing a manifest issuing format destined to other user apparatus 2 or reproducing a manifest by reusing the manifest issuing format. The formulas (3) and (4) means verification of validity of the signature of the manifest issuing format. According to the verification, the occurrence of a manifest other than one which is included in the manifest issuing format and which has a signature signed by the issuer is stored can be prevented. The formula (5) means verification of correspondence between the manifest and the digital ticket. According to the verification, the occurrence of a manifest which does not correspond to the digital ticket, such as one corresponding to other digital ticket, can be prevented.

Step 112) The control part 23 deletes e_3 ($=r_u$) from the number set R_u in the storing part 27.

Step 113) The control part 23 adds e_1 ($=c_{(m, PKI)}$) to a manifest set C_u in the storing part 27.

Step 114) The control part 23 sends e_1 to the control part 21 to notify of a normal end.

(2) Transferring a digital ticket
The digital ticket transferring process from the user apparatus 2a to the user apparatus 2b via the connection apparatus 4 will be described in the following.

Fig.8 and Fig.9 are sequence charts showing the digital ticket transferring process according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Step 201) The control part 21a extracts the digital ticket $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ which is an object to be transferred from a set M_{Ua} of data with a signature retained by the storing part 22a.

Step 202) The control part 21a extracts the accredited information $t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)$ with a

signature by the issuer of $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ from T_{Ua} included in the storing part 22a.

Step 203) The control part 21a sends $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ and $t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)$ to the control part 21b.

5 Step 204) The control part 21b stores $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ in a set M_{Ub} of data with the signature in the storing part 22b and stores $t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)$ in an accredited information set T_{Ub} in the storing part 22b.

10 Step 205) The control part 21b requests the control part 23b to generate session information (s_1, s_2) .

The control part 23b generates the session information (s_1, s_2) according to the following
15 procedure and sends it to the control part 21b.

(a) The control part 23 obtains a number r_{Ub} generated by the number generation part 26b.

(b) The number r_{Ub} is added to a number set R_{Ub} in the storing part 27b.

20 (c) The session information $(s_1, s_2) = (H(PkUb), r_{Ub})$ is generated. Here, $PkUb$ is a verification key held by the control part 21b.

Step 206) The control part 21b sends the session information (s_1, s_2) to the control part 21a.

25 Step 207) The control part 21a sends (s_1, s_2) and a hash value $H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m))$ of the digital ticket to be transferred to the control part 23a.

Step 208) The control part 23a verifies that following formula is satisfied for a set of
30 manifest C_{Ua} of manifests which is stored in the storing part 27a.

$$H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)) \in C_{Ua} \quad (6)$$

When the verification fails, the process after that is interrupted and the control part 21a
35 is notified of the failure.

The above formula (6) means verification that the manifest $c_{(m, PKI)} = H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m))$ which

corresponds to the digital ticket to be transferred is stored in the storing part 27a.

Step 209) The control part 23a obtains a manifest sending format $e_c = (e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7)$ by using S_{PkUa} which is included in the signature part 25a and verification keys $PkUa$, $PkCa$, and a key certificate $PkUa \parallel S_{PkCa}(PkUa)$ which are included in the control part 11. Each element of e_c is shown below.

- 10 $e_1 = C_{(m, PkI)}$
 $e_2 = s_1$
 $e_3 = s_2$
 $e_4 = S_{PkUa}(C_{(m, PkI)} \parallel s_1 \parallel s_2)$
 $e_5 = PkUa$
15 $e_6 = S_{PkCa}(PkUa)$
 $e_7 = PkCa$

Step 210) The control part 23a deletes $C_{(m, PkI)}$ from the set C_{Ua} of manifest.

Step 211) The control part 23a sends e_c to the control part 21a.

Step 212) The control part 21a sends e_c to the control part 21b. The control part 21b verifies e_1 in the sent e_c whether $e_1 = H(m \parallel S_{PkI}(m))$ is satisfied.

Step 213) The control part 21b sends e_c , $t \parallel S_{PkI}(t)$ and $m \parallel S_{PkI}(m)$ to the control part 23b and requests to store the manifest in e_c .

Step 214) The control part 23b verifies that all formulas below are satisfied by using the an authentication part 24b. If the verification fails, the process is interrupted and the control part 21b is notified of the interruption.

- 30 $e_2 = H(PkUb) \quad (7)$
 $e_3 \in R_{pb} \quad (8)$
 $V_{e5}(e_1 \parallel e_2 \parallel e_3 \parallel e_4, e_5) = 1 \quad (9)$
35 $V_{e7}(e_5 \parallel e_6) = 1 \quad (10)$
 $H(e7) \in t_c \quad (11)$
 $V_{tI}(m \parallel S_{PkI}(m)) = 1 \quad (12)$

$$V_{tI}(t \parallel S_{PKI}(t))=1 \quad (13)$$

The above formulas (7) and (8) mean verification of validity of the session information.

Using the verification, fraud such as storing a
5 manifest sending format on another user apparatus,
reproducing a manifest by reusing the manifest
sending format or the like is prevented.

The formula (9) means verification for
identifying the signer of the manifest sending
10 format. The formula (10) means verification of the
key certificate of the signer. The formula (11)
means verification that the signer of the key
certificate is trusted by the issuer as an
accredited object in the accredited information.
15 According to the above verification, it is verified
that the tamper-proof capability of the source of
the manifest sending format is assured by a party
trusted by the issuer.

The formulas (12) and (13) mean
20 verification of validity of the signature signed on
the accredited information. According to the
verification, it is verified that the accredited
information is properly signed by the signer of the
digital ticket.

25 Step 215) The control part 23b deletes e_s
(= r_{ub}) from the number set R_{ub} in the storing part
27b.

Step 216) The control part 23b adds e_1
(= $C_{(m, PKI)}$) to the manifest set C_{ub} in the storing
30 part 27b.

Step 217) The control part 23b notifies
the control part 21b of the normal completion of the
process.

(3) Consuming the digital ticket
35 The digital ticket consuming process from
the user apparatus 2 to the collector apparatus 3
via the connection apparatus 4 will be described in

the following.

Fig.10 is a sequence chart of the ticket consuming process according to an embodiment of the present invention.

5 Step 301) The control part 21 extracts a digital ticket $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ to be consumed from the signed data set M_u which is included in the storing part 22.

10 Step 302) The control part 21 extracts the accredited information $t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)$ signed by the issuer of $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ from the signed accredited information set T_u included in the storing part 22.

 Step 303) The control part 21 sends $m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)$ and $t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)$ to the control part 31.

15 Step 304) The control part 31 generates session information (s_1, s_2) according to the following procedure.

 (a) The control part 23 obtains a number r_v from the number generation part 33.

20 (b) The number r_v is added to a number set R_v in the storing part 34.

 (c) The session information $(s_1, s_2) = (H(PkV), r_v)$ is generated. Here, PkV is a verification key held by the control part 31.

25 Step 305) The control part 31 sends the session information (s_1, s_2) to the control part 21.

 Step 306) The control part 21 sends (s_1, s_2) and a hash value $H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m))$ of the digital ticket to be consumed to the control part 23.

30 Step 307) The control part 23 verifies that a following formula is satisfied for a set of manifests C_u which is stored in the storing part 27.

$$H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)) \in C_u \quad (15)$$

35 When the verification fails, the process after that is interrupted and the control part 21 is notified of the failure.

 The above formula (15) means verification

that the manifest $C_{(m, PKI)} = H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m))$ which corresponds to the digital ticket to be consumed is stored in the storing part 27.

Step 308) The control part 23 obtains a manifest sending format $e_c = (e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7)$ by using the signature function S_{PKU} which is included in the signature part 25 and verification keys PKU , PKC , and a key certificate $PKU \parallel S_{PKC}(PKU)$ which are included in the control part 21. Each element of e_c is shown below.

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 &= C_{(m, PKI)} \\ e_2 &= S_1 \\ e_3 &= S_2 \\ e_4 &= S_{PKU}(C_{(m, PKI)} \parallel S_1 \parallel S_2) \\ e_5 &= PKU \\ e_6 &= S_{PKC}(PKU) \\ e_7 &= PKC \end{aligned}$$

Step 309) The control part 23 deletes $C_{(m, PKI)}$ from the manifest set C_v .

Step 310) The control part 23 sends e_c to the control part 21.

Step 311) The control part 21 sends e_c to the control part 31.

Step 312) The control part 31 verifies that all formulas below are satisfied by using the authentication part 32. If the verification fails, the process is interrupted and the control part 21 is notified of the interruption.

$$\begin{aligned} e_2 &= H(PKV) & (16) \\ e_3 &\in R_v & (17) \\ V_{e5}(e_1 \parallel e_2 \parallel e_3 \parallel e_4, e_5) &= 1 & (18) \\ V_{e7}(e_5 \parallel e_6) &= 1 & (19) \\ H(e_7) &\in t_c & (20) \\ V_{tI}(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)) &= 1 & (21) \\ V_{tI}(t \parallel S_{PKI}(t)) &= 1 & (22) \end{aligned}$$

The above formulas (16) and (17) mean verification of validity of the session information.

Using the verification, fraud such as storing a manifest sending format on another collector apparatus, reproducing a manifest by reusing the manifest sending format or the like is prevented.

5 The formula (18) means verification for identifying the signer of the manifest sending format. The formula (19) means verification of the key certificate of the signer. The formula (20) means verification that the signer of the key
10 certificate is trusted by the issuer as an accredited object in the accredited information. According to the above verification, it is verified that the tamper-proof capability of the source of the manifest sending format is assured by a party
15 trusted by the issuer.

 The formulas (21) and (22) mean verification of the validity of the signature for the accredited information. According to the verification, it is verified that the accredited
20 information is properly signed by the signer of the digital ticket.

 Step 313) The control part 31 deletes e_3 ($= r_v$) from R_v in the storing part 34.

 Step 314) The control part 31 verifies
25 that all formulas below are satisfied. If the verification fails, the control part 21 is notified of process interruption. If the verification succeeds, a service corresponding to m is provided to the consumer.

30 $e_1 = H(m \parallel S_{PKI}(m)) \quad (23)$

 The above formula (23) means verification that a manifest corresponding to the consumed digital ticket has been sent. According to the verification, it is verified that a valid digital
35 ticket has been consumed.

 Each element of the issuer apparatus 1, the user apparatus 2 or the collector apparatus 3

can be constructed by a program. The program can be stored in a disk unit connected to a computer which may be used as the issuer apparatus, the user apparatus or the collector apparatus. The program
5 can be also stored in a transportable computer readable medium such as a floppy disk, a CD-ROM or the like. The program may be installed from the computer readable medium to a computer such that the present invention is realized by the computer.

10 As mentioned above, according to the first embodiment of the present invention, since only manifests of the number which the signer intends to store are stored in the manifest storing part in the data storing system, the occurrence of a manifest
15 newly stored by a person other than the signer can be prevented. In addition, it can be prevented that valid data exceeding the number of the manifests may exist. Further, it becomes possible that the manifests can be transmitted only via routes which
20 are trusted by the signer.

By using the digital ticket as data in the data storing system of the present invention, the number of valid reproductions of the digital ticket can be maintained at less than a constant number
25 without storing the digital tickets in the tamper-proof device.

In addition, by using a program as data of the present invention and by using the manifest as a license of the program, illegal copying and use of
30 the program can be prevented.

Further, by using music data or image data as data of the present invention, illegal copying and use of the music data or image data can be prevented. Furthermore, by "consuming" ((3) in the
35 embodiment) the data each time when the data is used, the system of the present invention can be used for billing per use in a billing system (for example, a

pay per view billing system).

(Second Embodiment)

In the following, a second embodiment of the present invention will be described.

5 According to the above mentioned first embodiment, only data which represents originality (manifest) is stored in the tamper-proof apparatus and it is ensured that the number of valid reproductions of data is maintained below a pre-set
10 constant number. Therefore, the tamper-proof device does not necessarily perform verifications other than the verification on reproducing. The verifications include a verification of validity of description. Thus, processing load such as
15 processing speed and memory capacity can be decreased. The above-mentioned invention has remarkable effects in comparison with the conventional technology. However, there are two main problems described below as to the matter of
20 practicality.

 First, when generating the data representing originality or authenticity or genuineness, it is necessary to send data and the signature to the tamper-proof device in order to
25 verify the data and the signature. On the other hand, the transmitting speed of an IC card is about 9600 bps (ISO-7816), which is relatively low. Therefore, when the size of the data is large, the time for generating the data representing
30 originality may be remarkably increased.

 In addition, according to the above-mentioned first embodiment, the data representing originality is generated from data and the signature, and it is necessary to verify the data representing
35 originality by using the data and the signature when consuming the data. Therefore, it becomes necessary to circulate not only the data but also the

signature. Therefore, the memory capacity necessary for the system and the processing time for circulation may be increased.

In the second embodiment, an original data
5 circulation system will be described. According to the system, the processing load for generating data representing originality (which will be called a token) and circulating the data is decreased.

Fig.11 is a block diagram for explaining
10 the principle of the second embodiment of the present invention.

The original data circulation for storing
and circulating original data which is digital
information includes an issuer apparatus 50, a user
15 apparatus 60 and a collector apparatus 70.

The issuer apparatus includes a first
originality information generation part 51, and a
first originality information sending part 52. The
first originality information generation part 51
20 generates originality information. The first
originality information sending part 52 sends the
originality information. Here, the originality
information is information which represents
genuineness of the right of issued data. In other
25 words, the originality information represents the
authenticity or originality of issued data.

The user apparatus 60 includes a second
originality information sending part 61, a first
identifying part 62, a first authentication part 63
30 and a storing part 64.

The second originality information sending
part 61 receives originality information which is
formed by fifth information corresponding to an
apparatus and by sixth information which is data or
35 which corresponds to the data. The first
identifying part 62 identifies a source apparatus of
the originality information when the originality

information is received from another apparatus. When the source apparatus is authenticated, the first authentication part 63 determines that the originality information is valid only when the
5 source apparatus and information corresponding to first information of the originality information are the same. The storing part 64 stores the originality information when the originality information is determined as valid by the first
10 authentication part 63.

The collector apparatus 70 includes a second identifying part 71, a second authentication part 72 and a data processing part 73.

The second identifying part 71 identifies
15 a source apparatus which sends originality information. The second authentication part 72 authenticates the source apparatus. The data processing part 73 carries out processing for the originality information data or data corresponding
20 to the second information.

Figs.12A and 12B show the configurations of the data storing system in the original data circulation system.

In the figure, the issuer of the digital
25 ticket has an issuer apparatus 100 and the user who receives the digital ticket has a user apparatus 200. When issuing a digital ticket, a communication channel between the issuer apparatus 100 and the user apparatus 200 is established via a connection
30 apparatus 400. The issuer apparatus 100 sends the digital ticket which is validated in the issuer apparatus 100 to the user apparatus 200.

The above-mentioned apparatuses can be configured as shown in Figs.12A and 12B. Fig.12A
35 shows a representative configuration when an IC card is used for the user apparatus 200 and an IC card reader is used for the connection apparatus 400.

Fig.12B shows a representative configuration when a tamper-proof device such as an IC card or a PC which is kept in a safe place is used as the user apparatus and a network is used for the connection
5 apparatus 400. The configurations shown in Figs.12A and 12B can be mixed.

The above-mentioned communication channel may exist only during the period from the issuing start time to the issuing end time, which applies to
10 the cases of "transferring", "consuming" and "presenting".

When transferring the digital ticket, a communication channel is established between the user apparatuses 200 via the communication apparatus
15 400 in the same way as when issuing the digital ticket. Then, the digital ticket is transferred between the user apparatuses 200.

A collector of the digital tickets has a collector apparatus 300. When consuming the digital
20 tickets, a communication channel is established between the user apparatus 200 and the collector apparatus 300 via the communication apparatus 400 in the same way as when issuing the digital ticket. Then, a valid digital ticket is transferred to the
25 collector apparatus 300.

When presenting the digital tickets, a communication channel is established between the user apparatuses 200 or between the user apparatus 200 and the collector apparatus 300 via the
30 communication apparatus 400 such that the user apparatus 200 presents a certificate that the user apparatus 200 has a valid digital ticket to another user apparatus or to the collector apparatus 300.

As mentioned above, the data storing
35 system of the present invention includes one or a plurality of issuer apparatuses 100, one or a plurality of user apparatuses 200 and one or a

plurality of collector apparatuses 300 which apparatuses are connected by connection apparatuses 400 which provide temporal communication channels.

In the following, the embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to figures.

Each apparatus which forms the above-mentioned data storing system will be described by using Figs.13-16. The meaning of formulas used for descriptions below are almost the same as those used in the first embodiment. Especially, a combination ($Pk2$, $S_{Pk1}(Pk2)$) of a digital signature $S_{Pk1}(Pk2)$ of $Pk2$ by a verification key $Pk2$ and S_{Pk1} is called as a key certificate of $Pk2$ by $Pk1$. $H(Pk)$ is called as a hash value of Pk .

Fig.13 shows an issuer apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention.

The issuer apparatus 100 shown in the figure includes a control part 110, a signature part 120, a data generation part 130, a token generation part 140 and an accredited information generation part 150.

The control part 110 has a verification key $Pk1$ and enables the issuer apparatus 100 to circulate a digital ticket securely. $Pk1$ is a verification key corresponding to a signature function S_{Pk1} provided in the signature part 120. The hash value of it $H(Pk1)$ is used as an identifier for identifying the issuer. A detailed description of the control part 110 will be given later.

The signature part 120 includes a signature function S_{Pk1} . S_{Pk1} is different for each issuer apparatus 100 and concealed by the signature part 120.

The data generation part 130 generates data m on the basis of information generated in the issuer apparatus 100 or information given from

outside. According to the data storing system of the present invention, there is no restriction on the contents of the data m. Therefore, digital information representing rights of general tickets
5 such as a concert ticket, program data, music data and image data can be used as the data m.

The token generation part 140 has the unidirectional hash function H and generates a token $(c_1, c_2) = (H(m), H(PkI))$ from data m and a
10 verification key PkI. c_2 is token issuer information which is a hash value that identifies the issuer of the token. Hash of data m is used as c_1 here; however, an identifier for identifying m can also be used as c_1 .

The accredited information generation part 150 generates accredited information (t_1, t_2, t_3) . (t_1, t_2, t_3) that can be formed as shown below by using the signature part 120.

$t_1 = \{H(PkA_1), H(PkA_2), \dots, H(PkA_n)\}$
20 $t_2 = S_{PkI}(H(PkA_1) \parallel H(PkA_2) \parallel \dots \parallel H(PkA_n))$
 $t_3 = PkI$

Here, $H(PkA_1)$ is a hash value for identifying an after-mentioned third party who is "trusted" by the issuer.

25 The accredited information can also be formed (t'_1, t'_2, t'_3, t'_4) as shown below.

$t'_1 = \{H(PkA_1), H(PkA_2), \dots, H(PkA_n)\}$
 $t'_2 = H(m)$
 $t'_3 = S_{PkI}(H(PkA_1) \parallel H(PkA_2) \parallel \dots \parallel H(PkA_n) \parallel H(m))$
30 $t'_4 = PkI$

In this case, $H(PkA_1)$ is a hash value for identifying a third party trusted by the issuer for circulating data m.

In addition, a third party may issue
35 accredited information such that the above-mentioned accredited information can be constructed recursively.

Further, the accredited information may be stored beforehand in a control part of the tamper-proof device of the user apparatus or a control part of the collector apparatus instead of being
5 generated by each issuer. In this case, the signature is not necessary and the accredited information can be constituted as (t''_1, t''_2) or only t''_1 as shown below.

$$\begin{aligned} t''_1 &= \{H(PkA_1), H(PkA_2), \dots, H(PkA_n)\} \\ 10 \quad t''_2 &= H(m) \end{aligned}$$

In such a case, $H(PkA_1)$ is a hash value for identifying a third party trusted by a third party which made the control part for circulating the data m .

15 In the following, the accredited information is assumed as (t_1, t_2, t_3) . However, any of the above-mentioned accredited information can be used.

Fig.14 is a user apparatus 200 according to an embodiment of the present invention.

The user apparatus 200 includes a control part 210, a storing part 220 and the tamper-proof device 280 which has a control part 230, an authentication part 240, a signature part 250, a
25 number generation part 260 and a storing part 270. The tamper-proof device 280 protects functions and contents of each part from tampering. Even the user of the tamper-proof device 280 can not tamper with the tamper-proof device 280. An IC card or a server
30 which is stringently managed by a third party via a network can be used as the tamper-proof device 280.

The control part 210 includes issuer information $I_u = \{H(PkI_1), H(PkI_2), \dots, H(PkI_n)\}$. The control part 210 and the control part 230 in the
35 tamper-proof device 280 control the user apparatus 200 for circulating a digital ticket securely. I_u is a set representing an issuer trusted by a user

and can be updated by the user at any time. The control part 210 determines that only the token issued by an issuer included in I_u is valid. The detailed description of the control part 210 will be described later.

In addition, I_u can be realized as $I_u(m_i) = \{H(PKI_{i1}), H(PKI_{i2}), \dots, H(PKI_{in})\}$. That is, sets of issuer information are managed from one data to another data.

10 The storing part 220 stores a set M_u of data which is held by a user and a set T_u of accredited information. The sets can be updated by the control part 210.

The control part 230 has verification keys
15 PkU, PkA, and a key certificate (PkU, $S_{PkA}(PkU)$). The control part 230 controls the user apparatus for circulating the digital ticket securely. Here, the verification key PkU corresponds to S_{PkU} in the signature part 250. Hash data of it $H(PkU)$ is used
20 as an identifier for identifying the user apparatus. S_{PkA} is a signature function concealed by a third party which assures safety of the tamper-proof device 280. The third party may be an IC card manufacturer, a tamper-proof server administrator or
25 the like. That is, tamper-proof capability of the tamper-proof device 280 which includes the signature function S_{PkU} is assured by the third party who has the signature function S_{PkA} . A detailed description of the control part 230 will be given later. PkA is
30 a verification key of S_{PkA} .

The authentication part 240 includes a verifier V.

The signature part 250 includes the signature function S_{PkU} . Each of the user
35 apparatuses have different S_{PkU} . S_{PkU} is concealed by the signature part 250.

The number generation part 260 stores a

next number r_v . When the number generation part 260 is required to issue a number, the number generation part 260 issues a current number r_v and increments r_v . Here, r_v is a positive number.

5 The storing part 270 stores a set of tokens C_v and a set of numbers R_v . These sets can be updated by the control part 230.

Fig.15 is a block diagram of the collector apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention. The collector apparatus 300 includes a control part 310, an authentication part 320, a number generation part 330 and a storing part 340.

The control part 310 has a verification key PkE and issuer information $I_E = \{H(PkI_1), H(PkI_2), \dots, H(PkI_n)\}$, and controls the collector apparatus 300 for circulating the digital ticket securely. I_E is a set representing an issuer trusted by the collector and can be updated by the issuer at any time. The control part 310 determines that only the token issued by an issuer included in I_E is valid and provides a service for consumption of only the digital ticket with the valid token. The detailed description of the operation of the control part 310 will be given later.

25 In addition, in the same way as I_v in the control part 210, I_E can be realized as $I_E (m_i) = \{H(PkI_{i1}), H(PkI_{i2}), \dots, H(PkI_{in})\}$. That is, sets of issuer information are managed from one data to another data.

30 The authentication part 320 includes a verifier V .

The number generation part 330 stores a next number r_E . When the number generation part 330 is required to issue a number, the number generation part 330 issues a current number r_E and increments r_E . r_E is a positive number.

The storing part 340 stores a set of

numbers R_k . The set can be updated by the control part 310.

Fig.16 is a block diagram of the connection apparatus 400 according to an embodiment of the present invention.

The connection apparatus 400 includes a communication part 410. The communication part 410 provides a temporal or permanent communication channel between the issuer apparatus 100, the user apparatus 200 and the collector apparatus 300, or between the user apparatuses. A terminal with an IC card slot at a kiosk, a plurality of PCs which are connected via network or the like can be used as the connection apparatus 400.

A method for circulating the digital ticket securely by using the above-mentioned apparatuses will be described in the following.

In the following, the circulation method of a digital ticket will be described for each of the cases of (1) Issuing a digital ticket, (2) Transferring a digital ticket and (3) Consuming a digital ticket. In the following description, communication between the apparatuses is carried out via the communication part 410 in the connection apparatus 400.

(1) Issuing a digital ticket

Fig.17 is a sequence chart of the process according to an embodiment of the present invention. In the figure, the connection apparatus 400 existing between the issuer apparatus 100 and the user apparatus 200 is not shown.

Step 1101) The control part 110 of the issuer apparatus 100 obtains data m from the data generation part 130. The data m is the digital ticket describing right information.

Step 1102) The control part 110 of the issuer apparatus 100 provides the data m and PkI to

the token generation part 140 such that the token generation part 140 generates a token (c_1, c_2)
 $=(H(m), H(PKI))$.

Step 1103) The control part 110 obtains
5 accredited information (t_1, t_2, t_3) from the accredited information generation part 150. The configuration of the accredited information is shown before.

Step 1104) The control part 110 sends m
10 and (t_1, t_2, t_3) to the control part 210 in the user apparatus 200.

Step 1105) The control part 210 of the user apparatus 200 adds m in M_U of the storing part 220, adds (t_1, t_2, t_3) in T_U of the storing part 220
15 and stores them in the storing part 220.

Step 1106) The control part 210 requests control part 230 to generate session information (s_1, s_2) .

The control part 230 generates the session
20 information (s_1, s_2) according to the following procedure and sends it to the control part 210.

(a) The control part 230 obtains a number r_U generated by the number generation part 260 in the tamper-proof device 280.

25 (b) The number r_U is added to a number set R_U in the storing part 270.

(c) The session information $(s_1, s_2)=(H(PkU), r_U)$ is generated. Here, PkU is a verification key held by the control part 210.

30 Step 1107) The control part 210 sends the session information (s_1, s_2) to the control part 110 of the issuer apparatus 100.

Step 1108) The control part 110 of the issuer apparatus 100 obtains a token exchange format
35 $e=(e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8)$ by using S_{PKI} in the signature part 120 and the verification key PKI retained by the control part 110. Each element in e

is shown below. When issuing the digital ticket, since e_7 and e_8 are dummy data, each of e_7 and e_8 can take any value.

5 $e_1 = c_1$
 $e_2 = c_2$
 $e_3 = s_1$
 $e_4 = s_2$
 $e_5 = S_{PKI}(c_1 \parallel c_2 \parallel c_3 \parallel c_4)$
 $e_6 = PKI$
 10 $e_7 = \text{any}$
 $e_8 = \text{any}$

Step 1109) The control part 110 sends e to the control part 210 of the user apparatus 200.

Step 1110) The control part 210 sends e to
 15 the control part 230 and requests control part 230 to store the token in e .

Step 1111) The control part 230 in the tamper-proof device 280 verifies that following formulas are satisfied by using the authentication
 20 part 240. If the verification fails, the process after that is interrupted and the control part 230 notifies the control part 110 in the issuer device 100 of the process interruption via the control part 210.

25 $e_3 = H(PKU)$ (1)
 $e_4 \in R_v$ (2)
 $V_{e_6}(e_1 \parallel e_2 \parallel e_3 \parallel e_4, e_5) = 1$ (3)
 $e_2 = H(e_6)$ (4)

The above-mentioned formulas (1) and (2)
 30 mean verification of validity of the session information. Using the verification, fraud can be prevented. Such fraud may be, for example, storing a token exchange format in an other user apparatus 200 or reproducing a token by reusing the token
 35 exchange format.

The formula (3) means verification of validity of the signature of the token exchange

format. According to the verification, tampering with the token exchange format can be prevented.

The formula (4) means verification of the validity of the token issuer information. According to the verification, storing token issued by an issuer other than the signer of the token can be prevented.

Step 1112) The control part 230 in the tamper-proof device 280 of the user apparatus 200 deletes $e_4 (= r_v)$ from the number set R_v in the storing part 270.

Step 1113) The control part 230 adds (e_1, e_2) to C_v in the storing part 270.

Step 1114) The control part 230 sends (e_1, e_2) to the control part 210 to notify of a normal end.

Step 1115) The control part 210 verifies that following formulas are satisfied. If the verification fails, the process is interrupted and the control part 230 notifies the control part 110 in the issuer apparatus 100 of the process interruption.

$$e_1 = H(m) \quad (5)$$

$$e_2 \in I_v \quad (6)$$

The formulas (5) and (6) mean verification that the sent token corresponds to the subject digital ticket and was issued by a proper issuer. According to the verification, it is verified that the issued ticket is valid.

(2) Transferring a digital ticket

The digital ticket transferring process from the user apparatus 200a to the user apparatus 200b via the connection apparatus 400 will be described in the following.

Fig.18 and Fig.19 are sequence charts showing the digital ticket transferring process according to an embodiment of the present invention.

In the figures, the connection apparatus 400 existing between the two user apparatuses 200a and 200b is not shown. "a" is added to the name of each element of the user apparatus 200a and "b" is added to the name of each element of the user apparatus 200b.

Step 2201) The control part 210a extracts the digital ticket m which is an object to be transferred from a set M_{va} retained by the storing part 220a.

Step 2202) The control part 210a of the user apparatus 200a extracts the accredited information (t_1, t_2, t_3) generated by the issuer of m from T_{va} included in the storing part 220a.

Step 2203) The control part 210a sends m and (t_1, t_2, t_3) to the control part 210b of the user apparatus 200b.

Step 2204) The control part 210b stores m in a set M_{vb} in the storing part 220b and stores (t_1, t_2, t_3) in an accredited information set T_{vb} in the storing part 220b.

Step 2205) The control part 210b requests to generate session information (s_1, s_2) to the control part 230b in the tamper-proof device 280b.

The control part 230b generates the session information (s_1, s_2) according to the following procedure and sends it to the control part 210b.

(a) The control part 230b obtains a number r_{vb} generated by the number generation part 260b in the tamper-proof device 280b.

(b) The number r_{vb} is added to a number set R_{vb} in the storing part 270b in the tamper-proof device 280b.

(c) The session information $(s_1, s_2) = (H(PkUb), r_{vb})$ is generated. Here, $PkUb$ is a verification key held by the control part 210b.

Step 2206) The control part 210b sends the session information (s_1, s_2) to the control part 210a of the user apparatus 200. In addition, issuer information I_{ub} may be sent with the session information (s_1, s_2). By providing notification of the issuer information beforehand, generating and sending a token exchange format which does not satisfy formula (16) or (26) can be prevented.

Step 2207) The control part 210a sends (s_1, s_2) and a hash value $H(m)$ of the digital ticket to be transferred to the control part 230a.

Step 2208) The control part 230a in the tamper-proof device 280a verifies that following formulas are satisfied for C_{ua} which is stored in the storing part 270a.

$$\exists c_2((H(m), c_2) \in C_{ua}), \quad c_2 \in I_{ub} \quad (7)$$

When and if the verification fails, the process after that is interrupted and the control part 210a is notified of the failure.

The above formula (7) means verification that the token $(H(m), c_2)$ which corresponds to the digital ticket m to be transferred is stored in the storing part 270a.

Step 2209) The control part 230a of the tamper-proof device 280a obtains a token exchange format $e = (e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8)$ by using S_{pkUa} which is included in the signature part 250a and verification keys $PkUa$, $PkAa$, and a key certificate $(PkUa, S_{pkAa}(PkUa))$ which is included in the control part 210a of the user apparatus 200a. Each element of e is shown below.

$$e_1 = H(m)$$

$$e_2 = C_2$$

$$e_3 = s_1$$

$$e_4 = s_2$$

$$e_5 = S_{pkUa}(H(m) \parallel c_2 \parallel s_1 \parallel s_2)$$

$$e_6 = PkUa$$

$$e_7 = S_{PKAa}(PkUa)$$

$$e_8 = PKAa$$

Step 2210) The control part 230a deletes $(H(m), c_2)$ from the set C_{Ua} if s_2 is positive.

5 Step 2211) The control part 230a sends e to the control part 210a.

Step 2212) The control part 210a sends e to the control part 210b of the user apparatus 200b.

10 Step 2213) The control part 210b sends e and the accredited information t to the control part 230b in the tamper-proof device 280b. The control part 210b requests to store the token in e .

Step 2214) The control part 230b verifies that all formulas below are satisfied by using the
15 an authentication part 240b. If the verification fails, the process is interrupted and the control part 210b is notified of the interruption.

$$e_3 = H(PkUb) \quad (8)$$

$$e_4 \in R_{Ub} \quad (9)$$

$$20 \quad V_{a6}(e_1 \parallel e_2 \parallel e_3 \parallel e_4, e_5) = 1 \quad (10)$$

$$V_{a8}(e_6, e_7) = 1 \quad (11)$$

$$H(e_8) \in t_1 \quad (12)$$

$$V_{t3}(t_1, t_2) = 1 \quad (13)$$

$$e_2 = H(t_3) \quad (14)$$

25 The above formulas (8) and (9) mean verification of validity of the session information. According to the verification, fraud such as storing a token exchange format in a user apparatus other than the user apparatus 200b, reproducing a token by
30 reusing the token exchange format or the like is prevented.

The formula (10) means verification for the validity of the signer of the token exchange format. According to this verification, tampering
35 of the token exchange format can be prevented.

The formula (11) means verification of the key certificate of the signer. The formula (12)

means verification that the signer of the key certificate is included in the accredited objects in the accredited information. The formula (13) means verification of the validity of the accredited
5 information. The formula (14) means verification that the signer of the accredited information is the same as the issuer of the token. According to the above verification, it is verified that the tamper-proof capability of the source of the token exchange
10 format is assured by a party trusted by the issuer.

Step 2215) The control part 230b deletes $e_4 (=r_{vb})$ from the number set R_{vb} in the storing part 270b.

Step 2216) The control part 230b adds (e_1 ,
15 e_2) to the set C_{vb} in the storing part 270b.

Step 2217) The control part 230b notifies the control part 210b of the normal completion of the process.

Step 2218) The control part 210b verifies
20 that all formulas below are satisfied. If the verification fails, the process is interrupted and the control part 210a is notified of the interruption. If the verification succeeds, the control part 210a is notified of the normal
25 completion of the process.

$$e_1 = H(m) \quad (15)$$

$$e_2 \in I_{vb} \quad (16)$$

The formulas (15) and (16) mean
30 verification that the sent token corresponds to the subject digital ticket and was issued by a proper issuer. According to the verification, it is verified that the transferred ticket is valid.

When the issuer information is managed
35 data by data in the control part 210b, $e_2 \in I_{vb}(m)$ is substituted for the formula (16).

(3) Consuming the digital ticket

The digital ticket consuming process from

the user apparatus 200 to the collector apparatus 300 via the connection apparatus 400 will be described in the following.

Fig.20 is a sequence chart of the ticket consuming process according to an embodiment of the present invention. In the figure, the connection apparatus 400 existing between the user apparatus 200 and the collector apparatus 300 is not shown.

Step 3301) The control part 210 extracts a digital ticket m to be consumed from M_v which is included in the storing part 220.

Step 3302) The control part 210 extracts the accredited information (t_1, t_2, t_3) generated by the issuer of m from T_v included in the storing part 220.

Step 3303) The control part 210 sends m and (t_1, t_2, t_3) to the control part 310 of the issuer apparatus 300.

Step 3304) The control part 310 generates session information (s_1, s_2) according to the following procedure.

(a) The control part 310 obtains a number r_E from the number generation part 330.

(b) The number r_E is added to a number set R_E in the storing part 340.

(c) The session information (s_1, s_2) = ($H(PkE), r_E$) is generated. Here, PkE is a verification key held by the control part 310.

Step 3305) The control part 310 sends the session information (s_1, s_2) to the control part 210 of the user apparatus 200.

Step 3306) The control part 210 sends (s_1, s_2) and a hash value $H(m)$ of the digital ticket to be consumed to the control part 230 of the tamper-proof apparatus 280.

Step 3307) The control part 230 verifies that following formulas are satisfied for C_v which

is stored in the storing part 270.

$$\exists c_2((H(m), c_2) \in C_v) \quad (17)$$

When and if the verification fails, the process after that is interrupted and the control
5 part 210 is notified of the failure.

The above formula (17) means verification that the token $(H(m), c_2)$ which corresponds to the digital ticket m to be consumed is stored in the storing part 270 of the tamper-proof device 280.

10 Step 3308) The control part 230 obtains a token exchange format $e=(e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8)$ by using the signature function S_{PkU} which is included in the signature part 250 and verification keys PkU, PkA , and a key certificate($PkU, S_{PkA}(PkU)$)
15 which are included in the control part 210. Each element of e is shown below.

$$e_1=H(m)$$

$$e_2=C_2$$

$$e_3=S_1$$

20 $e_4=S_2$

$$e_5= S_{PkU}(H(m) \parallel C_2 \parallel s_1 \parallel s_2)$$

$$e_6= PkU$$

$$e_7= S_{PkA}(PkU)$$

$$e_8= PkA$$

25 Step 3309) The control part 230 of the tamper-proof device 280 deletes $(H(m), c_2)$ from C_v when s_2 is positive.

Step 3310) The control part 230 sends e to the control part 210.

30 Step 3311) The control part 210 sends e to the control part 310 of the collector apparatus 300.

Step 3312) The control part 310 verifies that all formulas below are satisfied by using the authentication part 320. If the verification fails,
35 the process is interrupted and the control part 210 of the user apparatus 200 is notified of the interruption.

$$e_3 = H(PkE) \quad (18)$$

$$e_4 \in R_E \quad (19)$$

$$V_{e6}(e_1 \parallel e_2 \parallel e_3 \parallel e_4, e_5) = 1 \quad (20)$$

$$V_{e8}(e_6, e_7) = 1 \quad (21)$$

$$5 \quad H(e_8) \in t_1 \quad (22)$$

$$V_{t3}(t_1, t_2) = 1 \quad (23)$$

$$e_2 = H(t_3) \quad (24)$$

The above formulas (18) and (19) mean verification of validity of the session information.

10 According to the verification, fraud such as storing a token exchange format to a collector apparatus other than the collector apparatus 300, reproducing a token by reusing the token exchange format or the like is prevented.

15 The formula (20) means verification for the validity of the signer of the token exchange format. According to this verification, tampering of the token exchange format can be prevented.

The formula (21) means verification of the key certificate of the signer. The formula (22) means verification that the signer of the key certificate is included in the accredited objects in the accredited information. The formula (23) means verification of the validity of the accredited

20 information. The formula (24) means verification that the signer of the accredited information is the same as the issuer of the token. According to the above verification, it is verified that the tamper-proof capability of the source of the token exchange

25 format is assured by a party trusted by the issuer.

30 Step 3313) The control part 310 of the collector apparatus 300 deletes $e_4 (=r_E)$ from R_E in the storing part 340.

Step 3314) The control part 310 verifies

35 that all formulas below are satisfied. If the verification fails, the control part 210 of the user apparatus 200 is notified of the process

interruption. If the verification succeeds, a service corresponding to m is provided to the consumer.

$$e_1 = H(m) \quad (25)$$

5 $e_2 \in I_E \quad (26)$

The formulas (25) and (26) means verification that the sent token corresponds to the subject digital ticket and was issued by a proper issuer. According to the verification, it is
10 verified that the consumed ticket is valid.

When the issuer information is managed data by data in the control part 310, $e_2 \in I_E(m)$ is substituted for the formula (26).

(4) Presenting the digital ticket

15 Presentation of the digital ticket can be realized by modifying the process of the ticket consumption as follows.

- The control part 310 generates $(s_1, s_2) = (H(PKE), -r_E)$ in (c) of the step 3304.
- 20 - A formula $-e_4 \in R_E$ is substituted for the formula (19) in the step 3312.

According to the above-mentioned modification, since s_2 becomes negative, $(H(m), c_2)$ is not deleted from C_0 in step 3309. That is, it
25 becomes possible to verify that the user apparatus has a valid digital ticket at the time of the presentation while the valid digital ticket remains in the user apparatus. Thus, the inspection of the digital tickets becomes possible.

30 In the above descriptions (1)-(4), the sent token exchange format is not explicitly stored. On the other hand, storing the token exchange format in the storing part 220 produces an effect. That is, the user apparatus can send the history of the token
35 exchange format when sending m . As a result, it becomes possible to identify a fraudulent apparatus when fraud (double spending) is found. The fraud

may be, for example, that the tamper-proof device 28 is cracked.

(5) Returning the digital ticket

The collector can return the digital
5 ticket which has been consumed or presented to the issuer. Then, the issuer can pay a value to the collector. Accordingly, a value such as a fee can be paid to the issuer who has collected or inspected a digital ticket while preventing double-billing.

10 In the following, the process for returning will be described.

The issuer apparatus 100 further includes a part (a storing part 160) for storing the token exchange format e and a part for storing or
15 obtaining data m corresponding to the returned ticket and accredited information (t_1, t_2, t_3) .

The process for returning the digital ticket which is consumed or presented at the issuer apparatus 300 will be describe.

20 Step 5501) The issuer apparatus 300 sends the token exchange format e which is consumed or presented to the issuer apparatus 100.

Step 5502) The control part 100 of the issuer apparatus 100 verifies that a formula $e_2 =$
25 $H(PkI)$ is satisfied in which e_2 is included in e . When and if the verification fails, the issuer apparatus is notified of the failure and the process is interrupted. According to the verification, it is verified that e corresponds to the digital ticket
30 which is issued by the issuer apparatus 100 itself.

Step 5503) The control part 110 verifies that the formulas (20)-(22) are satisfied for e . When the accredited information (t_1, t_2, t_3) is obtained via an unreliable route (for example, via
35 the issuer), the formulas (23) and (24) are also verified. In this case, when verifying the formula (24), PkI is substituted for t_3 . When the

verification fails, the issuer apparatus 300 is notified of the failure and the process is interrupted. According to the verification, it is verified that e is circulated via a valid
5 circulation route.

Step 5504) The control part 110 verifies that the tamper-proof capability of e_3 is not assured by any third party which is trusted by t_1 in which e_3 is included in e when e_4 is positive.
10 Accordingly, it is verified that the valid token is not stored, that is, the right of the ticket is properly terminated due to consumption.

Step 5505) The control part 110 stores e in the storing part 160. If e has been already
15 stored in the storing part 160, the issuer apparatus 300 is notified of the failure and the process is interrupted.

Step 5506) The issuer provides a value according to the returned digital ticket to the
20 issuer.

(6) Book of tickets

A book of tickets can be realized by adding number information or time information to the token of the token exchange format. The number
25 information is assumed to be the number of the ticket.

Accordingly, when a plurality of digital tickets issued by the same issuer and having the same contents are issued, the digital tickets can be
30 treated properly and a plurality of same tokens can be sent effectively.

Specifically, by modifying the above-mentioned embodiments, the book of tickets can be realized.

- 35 - Number information c_3 is added to the token.
 - Number information e_n is added to the token exchange format.

- In the process of issuing the digital ticket, the number of tickets is specified as N when the token is generated (step 1102).

- In the process of transferring/consuming the
5 digital ticket, when the step 2207 or the step 3306 is performed, the number of the digital tickets to be transferred/consumed is specified as n.

- In the process of transferring/consuming the digital ticket, when it is verified that the token
10 is stored in step 2208 or step 3307, it is verified that the number of the tickets is adequate. That is, it is verified that C_v includes (c_1, c_2, c_3) in which $c_1 = H(m) \cap C_v \geq n$ is satisfied.

- When the token exchange format is generated in
15 step 1108, step 2209 or step 3308, $e_n = n$ is added and n is added and concatenated to the object to be signed in e_s such that $c_1 \parallel c_2 \parallel s_1 \parallel s_2 \parallel n$ is obtained.

- In the process of transferring/consuming, when deleting the token (when s_2 is positive in step 2210
20 or step 3309), $(H(m), c_2, c_3)$ is deleted from C_v only when $c_3 = n$ is satisfied. When $c_3 < n$, $(H(m), c_2, c_3)$ in C_v is updated to $(H(m), c_2, c_3 - n)$.

- When verifying the token exchange format in step 1111, step 2214 or step 3312, e_n is added and
25 concatenated to the object to be verified in the signature verification by e_s (the formulas (3), (10) and (20)) such that $e_1 \parallel e_2 \parallel e_3 \parallel e_4 \parallel e_n$ is obtained.

- In the process of issuing/transferring the digital ticket, when storing the token in step
30 1113 or step 2216, if C_v already includes a token (c_1, c_2, c_3) in which $e_1 = c_1$ and $e_2 = c_2$ are satisfied, the token (c_1, c_2, c_3) in C_v is updated to $(c_1, c_2, c_3 + e_n)$.

- In the process of consuming/returning
35 the digital ticket, the service or the value may be provided a plurality of times according to e_n .

(7) Retransmission control

The token can be retransmitted while preventing reproduction after abnormal conditions such as unintentional disconnection of a route are encountered. In the following, the process for the retransmission will be described. Specifically, the following procedures are added to some steps in the above-mentioned embodiments.

5 - The control part 110 or 230 retains the token exchange format e generated in step 1108, step 2209 or step 3308.

 - The control part 210 or 310 notifies the control part 110 or 210 which sent the digital ticket of (s_1, s_2) when acknowledgment of receipt is sent in normal completion in step 1115, step 2218, 15 or in providing a service in step 3314.

 - The control part 110, 210 deletes the token exchange format corresponding to (s_1, s_2) after the acknowledgment of receipt is received.

 When carrying out retransmission, some 20 steps of the above-mentioned embodiment are modified as shown below.

 - When the session information is obtained in step 1106, 2205 or 3304, the session information is not newly generated. Instead, the session 25 information (s_1, s_2) stored in the storing part 220 or 340 is used.

 - In step 1108, steps 2208-2210, and steps 3307-3309, if the control part 110 or 210 has e in which $(e_3=s_1) \cap (e_4=s_2)$ is satisfied, e is not newly 30 generated and the retained e is used.

(8) Variations of issuing

 Since the issue of the digital ticket can be assumed to be ticket (token) generation and transferring the ticket logically, the digital 35 ticket can be issued by using the ticket transferring process described below for example. The amount of processing necessary for the process

increases as compared with the ticket issuing process described above, since the verification process of the ticket transferring is more complex than that of the ticket issuing.

5 (8-1) Use of self-certificate

According to the after mentioned process, the verification process of the token exchange format by the control part 230 is different between ticket issuing (step 1111) and ticket transferring (step 2214). Implementation cost can be decreased by unifying the verification process as one in step 2214.

The control part 110 includes a key certificate (PkI , $S_{PkI}(PkI)$) by itself. As described below, by modifying the ticket issuing process, the process of the control part 230 which is in the receiving side can be unified.

- The issuer apparatus includes the self hash value $H(PkI)$ in the accredited object t_1 by the issuer when the accredited information generation part 150 generates the accredited information in step 1103.

- $e_7 = S_{PkI}(PkI)$ and $e_8 = PkI$ are used when the token exchange format e is generated in step 1108.

- The formulas (8)-(14) are used instead of the formulas (1)-(4) when the token exchange format e is verified in step 1111. U is substituted for Ub .

30 (8-2) Issuing the digital ticket by a user apparatus

As mentioned below, the user apparatus can issue the digital ticket by having a capability of generating a token issued by the user apparatus.

35 The process will be described in the following. In the description, it is assumed that data m is already generated.

- The control part 210 provides a hash value $H(m)$ of data m which corresponds to the digital ticket and the accredited object $t_i = \{H(PkA_1), H(PkA_2), \dots, H(PkA_i)\}$ to the control part

5 230.

- The control part 230 stores $(H(m), H(PkU))$ in the storing part 270 by using the verification key PkU .

The control part 230 generates $t_2 =$

10 $S_{PkU}(H(PkA_1) \parallel H(PkA_2) \parallel \dots \parallel H(PkA_i))$ by using the signature part 250.

- The control part 230 returns $(t_1, t_2, t_3 = PkU)$ to the control part 210. The control part 210 stores (t_1, t_2, t_3) in the storing part 220.

15 After that, the digital ticket is sent.

The above-mentioned examples of returning the tickets, the book of the tickets, retransmission control, and variations of issuing can be applied to the first embodiment.

Each element of the issuer apparatus 100, the user apparatus 200 or the collector apparatus 300 can be constructed by a program. The program can be stored in a disk unit connected to a computer which may be used as the issuer apparatus, the user

20 apparatus or the collector apparatus. The program can be also stored in a transportable computer readable medium such as a floppy disk, a CD-ROM or the like. The program may be installed from the computer readable medium to a computer such that the

25 present invention is realized by the computer.

Fig.21 is a block diagram showing a hardware configuration of such a computer. As shown in Fig.21, the computer system includes a CPU 500 by which a process of a program is executed, a memory

30 501 for temporarily storing data and a program, an external storage unit 502 for storing data and a program to be loaded into the memory 501, a display

503 for displaying data, a keyboard 504 for inputting data or commands, and a communication processing unit 505 which enables the computer system to communicate with other computers via a network. The program is installed in the external storage unit 502 then loaded into memory 501 and executed by the CPU 500.

As mentioned above, according to the second embodiment of the present invention, the token can be transmitted only via routes which are trusted by the issuer and the user or the collector identified by the issuer. Thus, the occurrence of the token corresponding to the data being newly stored in the token storing part by a person other than the issuer indicated by the token issuer information in the token can be prevented. In addition, the occurrence of the token being reproduced to a plurality of the token storing parts while the token is transferred can be prevented.

In addition, by regarding data with the token issued by a specific issuer as original, it becomes possible to restrict the number issuances of the original data by the issuer.

Further, by using an information identifier such as an URL which exists in an network as data, an access right of the information which can not be reproduced and can be transferred can be provided.

Further, by using a ticket with the correct contents or by using an identifier of the ticket, only the ticket that has a valid token can be regarded as a valid ticket and a user or a collector can refuse a ticket other than the valid ticket. Thus, fraudulent use (for example, double spending and illegal reproduction) of the ticket can be prevented.

Furthermore, by using a program as data of

the present invention and by using the token issued
by a specific issuer as a license of the program,
illegal copying and use of the program can be
prevented. In this case, the program execution
5 apparatus can refuse to execute a program other than
the program with the token.

Further, by using music data or image data
as data of the present invention, illegal copying
and use of the music data or image data, in which
10 the token issued by a specific issuer is used as an
appreciation right can be prevented. A display
apparatus of the data or a playback apparatus can
refuse to display or playback data other than the
data with the token.

15 The present invention is not limited to
the specifically disclosed embodiments, and
variations and modifications may be made without
departing from the scope of the invention.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5

1. An original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, said system comprising:
 - an apparatus including: means for
 - 10 generating first information corresponding to an issuer apparatus for issuing data; means for sending said first information; and means for sending second information corresponding to said data; and
 - an apparatus including: means for
 - 15 verifying validity of said first information which is received; means for verifying that an issuing apparatus corresponding to valid first information is valid; and means for determining that data corresponding to said second information is valid
 - 20 when said issuer apparatus is valid.

25

2. An original data circulation method in an original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, said method comprising the steps of:
 - generating first information corresponding
 - 30 to an issuer apparatus for issuing data;
 - sending said first information;
 - sending second information corresponding to said data;
 - verifying validity of said first
 - 35 information which is received;
 - verifying that an issuing apparatus corresponding to valid first information is valid;

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and

determining that data corresponding to said second information is valid when said issuer apparatus is valid.

5

3. A data storing method of storing
10 digital information which has a value, comprising the steps of:

generating first information which is digital information with a signature signed by an issuer apparatus of said digital information;
15 generating, by said issuer apparatus, second information, said second information being a manifest corresponding to said digital information;
verifying, by a user apparatus, identity of said issuer apparatus by using said first
20 information and said second information; and preventing reproduction of said digital information.

25

4. The data storing method as claimed in claim 3, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a verification key issued by a
30 server which is stringently managed concerning issuance of digital information;
generating, by said user apparatus, session information from said verification key; and
35 verifying validity of said session information.

5. The data storing method as claimed in
claim 3, comprising the steps of:
5 verifying the identity of said issuer
apparatus by storing said second information in a
tamper-proof device; and
 preventing reproduction of said digital
information.
10

6. A data storing system for storing
15 digital information which has a value, comprising:
 an issuer apparatus for generating first
information which is digital information with a
signature and generating second information which is
a manifest corresponding to said digital
20 information; and
 a user apparatus for verifying the
identity of said issuer apparatus by using said
first information and said second information; and
 preventing reproduction of said digital
25 information.

7. The data storing system as claimed in
claim 6, said user apparatus further comprising
means for obtaining a verification key issued by a
server which is stringently managed concerning issue
of digital information;
35 said data storing system further
comprising a collector apparatus including:
 means for generating session information

from a verification key; and
means for verifying the validity of said
session information.

5

8. The data storing system as claimed in
claim 6, said user apparatus further comprising:
10 means for verifying the identity of said
issuer apparatus by storing said second information
in a tamper-proof device; and
preventing reproduction of said digital
information.

15

9. A user apparatus for using digital
20 information in a data storing system for storing
digital information which has a value, comprising:
first storing means for storing and
extracting digital information with a signature;
second storing means for storing and
25 extracting a manifest corresponding to digital
information;
first authentication means for verifying
that said manifest is valid; and
first control means for storing said
30 manifest in said second storing means only when said
first authentication means verifies that said
manifest is valid.

35

10. The user apparatus as claimed in claim

9, said second storing means and said first authentication means having a tamper-proof capability.

5

11. The user apparatus as claimed in claim 9, said first authentication means including:

10 means for determining whether said digital information stored in said first storing means is valid by verifying that said manifest corresponding to said information is stored in said second storing means; and

15 means for determining that said digital information is valid only when said manifest is stored in said second storing means and determining that said digital information is invalid when said manifest is not stored in said second storing means.

20

12. The user apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

25 signature means for providing a signature to digital information;

second authentication means for verifying that the signer of said manifest is included in accredited objects and for verifying that the signer of accredited information and the signer of said digital information are the same; and second control means,

30 said second control means including:
35 means for extracting said manifest from said second storing means when said user apparatus moves said manifest from said second storing means

to another storing means;

means for providing said manifest a
signature by using said signature means;

means for deleting said manifest from said
5 second storing means;

means for verifying that the signer of
said manifest is trusted by the signer of said
digital information by using said second
authentication means; and

10 means for storing said manifest to said
another storing means only when the verification
succeeds.

15

13. The user apparatus as claimed in claim
9, further comprising:

session information generation means for
20 generating session information which has uniqueness
in said data storing system;

said session information including a
verification key of said user apparatus and a serial
number, being stored in said user apparatus, and
25 sent to a sending party of said manifest;

wherein said user apparatus receives said
manifest and said session information from said
sending party and verifies that validity of received
session information by using stored session
30 information such that said user apparatus prevents
reproduction of said manifest.

35

14. An issuer apparatus for issuing
digital information in a data storing system for

storing digital information which has a value, said issuer apparatus comprising:

accredited information generation means for generating accredited information which includes
5 a set of information representing an accredited object trusted by the signer of said digital information;

signature means for providing a signature to said digital information and to said accredited
10 information;

manifest generation means for generating said manifest;

means for sending said digital information and said accredited information to a user apparatus;

15 means for receiving session information which includes a verification key of said user apparatus and a serial number; and

means for sending information including said manifest and said session information by using
20 a verification key and a signature function of said issuer apparatus.

25

15. A collector apparatus for exercising a right of digital information in a data storing system for storing digital information which has a value, said collector apparatus comprising:

30 means for receiving digital information with a signature of the issuer and accredited information with said signature from a user apparatus;

means for generating session information
35 which has uniqueness in said data storing system and sending said session information to said user apparatus;

means for receiving information including said manifest and said session information from said user apparatus; and

means for verifying that said session
5 information, said manifest and said accredited information are valid.

10

16. A data storing system for storing digital information which has a value, said data storing system comprising:

a user apparatus for using digital
15 information;
an issuer apparatus for issuing digital information; and
a collector apparatus for exercising a right of digital information;
20 said user apparatus including:
first storing means for storing and extracting digital information with a signature;
second storing means for storing and extracting a manifest corresponding to digital
25 information;
first authentication means for verifying that said manifest is valid; and
first control means for storing said manifest in said second storing means only when said
30 first authentication means verifies that said manifest is valid;
said issuer apparatus including:
accredited information generation means
for generating accredited information which includes
35 a set of information representing an accredited object trusted by the signer of said digital information;

signature means for providing a signature to said digital information and to said accredited information;

manifest generation means for generating
5 said manifest;
means for sending said digital information and said accredited information to a user apparatus;
means for receiving session information which includes a verification key of said user
10 apparatus and a serial number; and
means for sending information including said manifest and said session information by using a verification key and a signature function of said issuer apparatus;
15 said collector apparatus including:
means for receiving digital information with a signature of the issuer and accredited information with said signature from a user apparatus;
20 means for generating session information which has uniqueness in said data storing system and sending said session information to said user apparatus;
means for receiving information including
25 said manifest and said session information from said user apparatus; and
means for verifying that said session information, said manifest and said accredited information are valid.

30

17. A computer readable medium storing
35 program code for causing a computer to store digital information which has a value, said computer being used as an issuer apparatus in a data storing system,

said computer readable medium comprising:

program code means for generating first information which is digital information with a signature; and

5 program code means for generating second information, said second information being a manifest corresponding to said digital information.

10

18. A computer readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to store digital information which has a value, said computer being
15 used as a user apparatus in a data storing system, said computer readable medium comprising:

program code means for verifying identity of said issuer apparatus by using said first information and said second information; and

20 preventing reproduction of said digital information.

25

19. The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 18, comprising:

program code means for obtaining a verification key issued by a server which is
30 stringently managed concerning issue of digital information;

program code means for generating session information from said verification key; and

35 program code means for verifying validity of said session information.

20. A computer readable medium storing
program code for causing a computer to store digital
5 information which has a value, said computer being
used as a user apparatus in a data storing system,
said computer readable medium comprising:

first storing program code means for
storing digital information with a signature in a
10 first storing means and extracting said digital
information with a signature;

second storing program code means for
storing a manifest corresponding to digital
information in a second storing means and extracting
15 said manifest corresponding to digital information;

first authentication program code means
for verifying that said manifest is valid; and

first authentication program code means
for verifying that said manifest is valid.
20

21. The computer readable medium as
25 claimed in claim 20, said first authentication
program code means comprising:

program code means for determining whether
said digital information stored in said first
storing means is valid by verifying that said
30 manifest corresponding to said information is stored
in said second storing means; and

program code means for determining that
said digital information is valid only when said
manifest is stored in said second storing means and
35 determining that said digital information is invalid
when said manifest is not stored in said second
storing means.

5 22. The computer readable medium as
claimed in claim 20, comprising:
signature program code means for providing
a signature to digital information;
second authentication program code means
10 for verifying that the signer of said manifest is
included in accredited objects and for verifying
that the signer of accredited information and the
signer of said digital information;
program code means for extracting said
15 manifest when said user apparatus moves said
manifest;
program code means for providing a
signature to said manifest by using said signature
program code means;
20 program code means for deleting said
manifest from said second storing means;
program code means for verifying that the
signer of said manifest is trusted by the signer of
said digital information by using said second
25 authentication program code means; and
program code means for moving said
manifest only when the verification succeeds.

30

23. A computer readable medium storing
program code for causing a computer to store digital
information which has a value, said computer being
35 used as an issuer apparatus in a data storing system,
said computer readable medium comprising:
accredited information generation program

code means for generating accredited information which includes a set of information representing accredited object trusted by the signer of said digital information;

5 signature program code means for providing a signature to said digital information and to said accredited information;

 manifest generation program code means for generating said manifest;

10 program code means for sending said digital information and said accredited information to a user apparatus;

 program code means for receiving session information which includes a verification key of
15 said user apparatus and a serial number; and

 program code means for sending information including said manifest and said session information by using a verification key and a signature function of said issuer apparatus.

20

24. A computer readable medium storing
25 program code for causing a computer to store digital information which has a value, said computer being used as a collector apparatus in a data storing system, said computer readable medium comprising:

 program code means for receiving digital
30 information with a signature of the issuer and accredited information with said signature from a user apparatus;

 program code means for generating session information which has uniqueness in said data
35 storing system and sending said session information to said user apparatus;

 program code means for receiving

information including said manifest and said session information from said user apparatus; and

program code means for verifying that said session information, said manifest and said
5 accredited information are valid.

10 25. An original data circulation method in an original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, said method comprising:

a sending step of sending, by a first
15 apparatus, originality information, said originality information including first information which corresponds to an apparatus and second information which is data or information corresponding to the data; and

20 an identifying step of identifying, by a second apparatus, a source apparatus of said originality information;

a first authentication step of determining
that said originally information is valid when said
25 source apparatus is authenticated; and

a second authentication step of
determining that said originality information is
valid only when said source apparatus and an
apparatus corresponding to said first information of
30 said originality information are the same.

35 26. The original data circulation method as claimed in claim 25, said method further comprising:

a step of concealing, by said first apparatus, a private key; and

a step of storing or obtaining, by said second apparatus, a hash value of said second
5 apparatus which hash value is generated by applying a unidirectional function to a public key corresponding to one or a plurality of private keys; said first authentication step including:
a step of authenticating said first
10 apparatus by verifying that said first apparatus has a private key corresponding to said hash value.

15

27. The original data circulation method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said sending step includes a step of sending a third party certificate to said second apparatus, said third party
20 certificate being a certificate representing that said first apparatus is authenticated by one or a plurality of third parties, and said third party certificate corresponding to a certifier of a third party;

25

said method further including:

a step of storing or obtaining, by said second apparatus, third party information corresponding to one or a plurality of third parties;

30

said first authentication step including:
a step of authenticating said first

apparatus by verifying that said first apparatus is an object to be authenticated in said third party certificate and that a certifier of said third party
35 certificate is included in third parties in said third party information.

28. The original data circulation method
5 as claimed in claim 27, said method further
comprising a step of storing or obtaining, by said
second apparatus, third party accredited information
corresponding to said first information and one or a
plurality of third parties;
10 said first authentication step including:
a step of authenticating said first
apparatus by verifying that said first apparatus is
an object to be authenticated in said third party
certificate and that a certifier of said third party
15 certificate is included in third parties in said
third party accredited information, said third
parties corresponding to said first information and
being extracted from said third party accredited
information.
20

29. The original data circulation method
25 as claimed in claim 27, said method further
comprising a step of storing or obtaining, said
second apparatus, third party accredited information
corresponding to said first information and one or a
plurality of third parties;
30 said first authentication step including:
a step of authenticating said first
apparatus by verifying that a certifier of said
third party certificate is included in third parties
extracted from said third party accredited
35 information, said third parties corresponding to
said first information and said second information.

30. The original data circulation method
5 as claimed in claim 25, said method further
including:
a step of concealing, by said first
apparatus, a private key; and
a step of sending a public key certificate
10 and a signature by a private key, said public key
certificate being a public key of said private key
to which a signature by a third party which trusts
said first apparatus is provided;
a step of identifying, by said second
15 apparatus, the public key of said third party by
verifying said public key certificate; and
a step of storing or obtaining one or a
plurality of hash values;
said first authentication step including:
20 a step of authenticating said first
apparatus by verifying that said signature by using
said public key included in said public key
certificate and by verifying that information
generated by applying a unidirectional function to
25 said public key of said third party is included in
said hash values.

30

31. The original data circulation method
as claimed in claim 25, said method further
including a step of storing or obtaining, by said
second apparatus, user accredited information
35 corresponding to said first information and one or a
plurality of third parties;
said first authentication step including:

a step of authenticating said first apparatus by verifying that said source apparatus is included in information corresponding to said first apparatus extracted from said first information by
5 using said user accredited information.

10 32. The original data circulation method as claimed in claim 25, said method further including a step of storing or obtaining, by said second apparatus, user accredited information corresponding to one or a plurality of said first
15 apparatuses from said first information and said second information;
said first authentication step including:
a step of authenticating said first apparatus by verifying that said source apparatus is
20 included in information on said first apparatuses extracted from said user accredited information, said information corresponding to said first information and second information.

25

33. An original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is
30 digital information, said system comprising:
a first apparatus which includes sending means for sending originality information, said originality information including first information which corresponds to an apparatus and second
35 information which is data or information corresponding to the data; and
a second apparatus which includes:

identifying means for identifying a source apparatus of said originality information;

a first authentication means for determining that said originally information is
5 valid when said source apparatus is authenticated;
and

a second authentication means for determining said originality information is valid only when said source apparatus and an apparatus
10 corresponding to said first information of said originality information are the same.

15

34. The original data circulation system as claimed in claim 33, wherein said first apparatus further includes means for concealing a private key;
said second apparatus further including
20 means for storing or obtaining a hash value of said second apparatus which hash value is generated by applying a unidirectional function to a public key corresponding to one or a plurality of private keys;
and

25

said first authentication means of said second apparatus authenticating said first apparatus by verifying that said first apparatus has a private key corresponding to said hash value.

30

35. The original data circulation system as claimed in claim 33, wherein said sending means
35 includes means for sending a third party certificate to said second apparatus, said third party certificate being a certificate representing that

said first apparatus is authenticated by one or a plurality of third parties, and said third party certificate corresponding to a certifier of a third party;

5 said second apparatus including means for storing or obtaining third party information corresponding to one or a plurality of third parties; and

 said first authentication means
10 authenticating said first apparatus by verifying that said first apparatus is an object to be authenticated in said third party certificate and that a certifier of said third party certificate is included in third parties in said third party
15 information.

20 36. The original data circulation system as claimed in claim 35, wherein said second apparatus includes means for storing or obtaining third party accredited information corresponding to said first information and one or a plurality of
25 third parties;

 said first authentication means
 authenticating said first apparatus by verifying that said first apparatus is an object to be authenticated in said third party certificate and
30 that a certifier of said third party certificate is included in third parties in said third party accredited information, said third parties corresponding to said first information and being extracted from said third party accredited
35 information.

37. The original data circulation system
as claimed in claim 35, wherein said second
5 apparatus includes means for storing or obtaining
third party accredited information corresponding to
said first information and one or a plurality of
third parties;

said first authentication means
10 authenticating said first apparatus by verifying
that a certifier of said third party certificate is
included in third parties extracted from said third
party accredited information, said third parties
corresponding to said first information and said
15 second information.

20 38. The original data circulation system
as claimed in claim 33, wherein said first apparatus
includes:

means for concealing a private key; and
means for sending a public key certificate
25 and a signature by a private key, said public key
certificate being a public key of said private key
to which a signature by a third party which trusts
said first apparatus is provided;

said second apparatus including:
30 means for identifying the public key of
said third party by verifying said public key
certificate; and

means for storing or obtaining one or a
plurality of hash values; and

35 said first authentication means
authenticating said first apparatus by verifying
that said signature by using said public key

included in said public key certificate and by verifying that information generated by applying a unidirectional function to said public key of said third party is included in said hash values.

5

39. The original data circulation system
10 as claimed in claim 33, wherein said second apparatus includes means for storing or obtaining user accredited information corresponding to said first information and one or a plurality of third parties;

15 said first authentication means authenticating said first apparatus by verifying that said source apparatus is included in information corresponding to said first apparatus extracted from said first information by using said
20 user accredited information.

25 40. The original data circulation system as claimed in claim 33, wherein said second apparatus includes means for storing or obtaining user accredited information corresponding to one or a plurality of said first apparatuses from said
30 first information and said second information;

said first authentication means authenticating said first apparatus by verifying that said source apparatus is included in information on said first apparatuses extracted from
35 said user accredited information, said information corresponding to said first information and second information.

5 41. An issuer apparatus in an original
data circulation system for storing or circulating
original data which is digital information, said
issuer apparatus comprising:

 originality information generation means
10 for generating originality information which
includes first information corresponding to said
issuer apparatus and second information
corresponding to data or information corresponding
to the data; and
15 originality information sending means for
sending said originality information.

20 42. The issuer apparatus as claimed in
claim 41, comprising:
 means for concealing a private key; and
 means for generating a hash value of said
25 issuer apparatus as said first information, said
hash value is generated from a public key of said
private key by applying a unidirectional function.

30 43. The issuer apparatus as claimed in
claim 41, comprising means for generating said
second information by applying an unidirectional
35 function to said data.

44. The issuer apparatus as claimed in
claim 43, wherein said second information is an
5 identifier which identifies contents in a network.

10 45. A user apparatus in an original data
circulation system for storing or circulating
original data which is digital information, said
user apparatus comprising:
originality information sending means for
15 sending originality information which includes first
information corresponding an apparatus and second
information corresponding to data or information
corresponding to the data;
identifying means for identifying a source
20 apparatus of said originality information which is
sent from an apparatus;
authentication means for determining that
said originality information is valid when said
source apparatus is authenticated or when said
25 apparatus corresponding to said first information
and said source apparatus is the same; and
storing means for storing said originality
information when said authentication means
determines that said originality information is
30 valid.

35 46. The user apparatus as claimed in claim
45, comprising means for deleting said originality
information when said user apparatus sends said

originality information.

5

47. A collector apparatus in an original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information, said collector apparatus comprising:

10 identifying means for identifying a source apparatus of originality information;

authentication means for authenticating said source apparatus; and

15 data processing means for performing a process corresponding to said data or data corresponding to said second information when said authentication means determines that said originality information which is sent to said collector apparatus is valid.

20

48. The collector apparatus as claimed in claim 47, said collector apparatus further comprising means for storing or obtaining issuer information;

25 said data processing means performing a process corresponding to said data or data corresponding to said second information when said authentication means determines that said originality information which is sent to said collector apparatus is valid and when said issuer apparatus corresponding to said first information is
30 included in said issuer information.
35

49. An original data circulation system
for storing or circulating original data which is
5 digital information, said original data circulation
system comprising:

an issuer apparatus which includes means
for generating originality information and sending
said originality information, said originality
10 information including first information
corresponding to said issuer apparatus and second
information corresponding to data;

a user apparatus which includes means for
verifying validity of a source apparatus of said
15 originality information and means for storing said
originality information when said validity is
verified; and

a collector apparatus which includes means
for verifying validity of an source apparatus of
20 said originality information and data processing
means for processing data corresponding to said
second information when said validity is verified.

25

50. An original data circulation system
for storing or circulating original data which is
digital information, said original data circulation
30 system comprising:

an issuer apparatus including:
first originality information generation
means for generating originality information which
includes first information corresponding to said
35 issuer apparatus and second information
corresponding to data or information corresponding
to the data; and

first originality information sending
means for sending said originality information;
a user apparatus including:

- first originality information sending
- 5 means for sending originality information which
includes first information corresponding to an
apparatus and second information corresponding to
data or information corresponding to the data;
- first identifying means for identifying a
- 10 source apparatus of said originality information
which is sent from an apparatus;
- first authentication means for determining
that said originality information is valid when said
source apparatus is authenticated or when said
- 15 apparatus corresponding to said first information
and said source apparatus is the same; and
- storing means for storing said originality
information when said first authentication means
determines that said originality information is
- 20 valid; and
- a collector apparatus including:
- second identifying means for identifying a
source apparatus of originality information;
- second authentication means for
- 25 authenticating said source apparatus; and
- data processing means for performing a
process corresponding to said data or data
corresponding to said second information when said
- second authentication means determines that said
- 30 originality information which is sent to said
collector apparatus is valid.

35

51. The original data circulation system
as claimed in claim 49, said collector apparatus

further comprising means for sending said originality information sent from said user apparatus to said issuer apparatus;

5 said issuer apparatus further comprising:
 means for verifying that said originality information is generated by said issuer apparatus;
 means for verifying that said originality information is sent via a valid route;
 means for verifying that said data
10 corresponding to said second information has been processed by said data processing means; and
 means for providing a value according to said data to said collector apparatus.

15

52. The original data circulation system as claimed in claim 49, said issuer apparatus
20 further comprising means for adding a usable number of said data as count information to said originality information;

 said user apparatus further comprising means for verifying said count information;
25 said collector apparatus further comprising means for verifying said count information;

 wherein said user apparatus can use said data said usable number of times.

30

53. The original data circulation system
35 as claimed in claim 49, wherein an apparatus in said data circulation system sends session information which has uniqueness in said data circulation system

when said apparatus sends said originality
information;

an apparatus of the sending side which
sends said originality information stores said
5 originality information and said session information
in said apparatus of the sending side;

an apparatus of the receiving side sends
said session information to said apparatus of the
sending side when receiving said originality
10 information; and

said apparatus of the sending side deletes
said originality information and said session
information which are stored in said apparatus of
the sending side.

15

54. The original data circulation system
20 as claimed in claim 49, said user apparatus further
comprising means for generating said originality
information.

25

55. A computer readable medium storing
program code for causing a computer in an original
data circulation system to store or circulate
30 original data which is digital information, said
computer readable medium comprising:

first program code means which is loaded
in a first apparatus, first program code means
comprising sending program code means for sending
35 originality information, said originality
information including first information which
corresponds to an apparatus and second information

which is data or information corresponding to the data; and

5 a second program code means which is loaded in a second apparatus, said second program code means comprising:

identifying program code means for identifying a source apparatus of said originality information;

10 first authentication program code means for determining that said originally information is valid when said source apparatus is authenticated; and

15 second authentication program code means for determining that said originality information is valid only when said source apparatus and an apparatus corresponding to said first information of said originality information are the same.

20

56. The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 55, said first program code means further comprising program code means for concealing
25 a private key;

said second program code means further comprising program code means for storing or obtaining a hash value of said second apparatus which hash value is generated by applying a
30 unidirectional function to a public key corresponding to one or a plurality of private keys;

said first authentication program code means including program code means for
35 authenticating said first apparatus by verifying that said first apparatus has a private key corresponding to said hash value.

57. The computer readable medium as
5 claimed in claim 55, said sending program code means
including:

program code means for sending a third
party certificate to said second apparatus, said
third party certificate being a certificate
10 representing that said first apparatus is
authenticated by one or a plurality of third parties,
and said third party certificate corresponding to a
certifier of a third party;

said second program code means further
15 including program code means for storing or
obtaining third party information corresponding to
one or a plurality of third parties; and

said first authentication program code
means including program code means for
20 authenticating said first apparatus by verifying
that said first apparatus is an object to be
authenticated in said third party certificate and
that a certifier of said third party certificate is
included in third parties in said third party
25 information.

30 58. The computer readable medium as
claimed in claim 57, said second program code means
including program code means for storing or
obtaining third party accredited information
corresponding to said first information and one or a
35 plurality of third parties;

said first authentication program code
means including program code means for

authenticating said first apparatus by verifying
that said first apparatus is an object to be
authenticated in said third party certificate and
that a certifier of said third party certificate is
5 included in third parties in said third party
accredited information, said third parties
corresponding to said first information and being
extracted from said third party accredited
information.

10

59. The computer readable medium as
15 claimed in claim 57, said second program code means
including program code means for storing or
obtaining third party accredited information
corresponding to said first information and one or a
plurality of third parties;
20 said first authentication program code
means including program code means for
authenticating said first apparatus by verifying
that a certifier of said third party certificate is
included in third parties extracted from said third
25 party accredited information, said third parties
corresponding to said first information and said
second information.

30

60. The computer readable medium as
claimed in claim 55, said first program code means
including:
35 program code means for concealing a
private key; and
program code means for sending a public

key certificate and a signature by a private key,
said public key certificate being a public key of
said private key to which a signature by a third
party which trusts said first apparatus is provided;
5 said second program code means including:
 program code means for identifying the
public key of said third party by verifying said
public key certificate; and
 program code means for storing or
10 obtaining one or a plurality of hash values;
 said first authentication program code
means including program code means for
authenticating said first apparatus by verifying
said signature by using said public key included in
15 said public key certificate and by verifying that
information generated by applying a unidirectional
function to said public key of said third party is
included in said hash values.

20

61. The computer readable medium as
claimed in claim 55, said second program code means
25 including program code means for storing or
obtaining user accredited information corresponding
to said first information and one or a plurality of
third parties;

 said first authentication program code
30 means including program code means authenticating
said first apparatus by verifying that said source
apparatus is included in information corresponding
to said first apparatus extracted from said first
information by using said user accredited
35 information.

62. The computer readable medium as
claimed in claim 55, said second program code means
5 including program code means for storing or
obtaining user accredited information corresponding
to one or a plurality of said first apparatuses from
said first information and said second information;
said first authentication program code
10 means including means for authenticating said first
apparatus by verifying that said source apparatus is
included in information on said first apparatuses
extracted from said user accredited information,
said information corresponding to said first
15 information and second information.

20 63. A computer readable medium storing
program code for causing a computer in an original
data circulation system to store or circulate
original data which is digital information, said
computer being used as an issuer apparatus, said
25 computer readable medium comprising:
originality information generation program
code means for generating originality information
which includes first information corresponding to
said issuer apparatus and second information
30 corresponding to data or information corresponding
to the data; and

originality information sending program
code means for sending said originality information.

64. The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 63, further comprising:

program code means for concealing a private key; and

5 program code means for generating a hash value of said issuer apparatus as said first information, said hash value is generated from a public key of said private key by applying a unidirectional function.

10

65. The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 63, further comprising program code means for generating said second information by applying an unidirectional function to said data.

20

66. The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 65, further comprising program code means for using an identifier which identifies contents in a network as said second information.

25

67. A computer readable medium storing program code for causing a computer in an original data circulation system to store or circulate original data which is digital information, said computer being used as a user apparatus, said

30 computer readable medium comprising:

35

originality information sending program code means for sending originality information which

includes first information corresponding to an apparatus and second information corresponding to data or information corresponding to the data;

identifying program code means for

5 identifying a source apparatus of said originality information which is sent from an apparatus;

authentication program code means for determining that said originality information is valid when said source apparatus is authenticated or
10 when said apparatus corresponding to said first information and said source apparatus is the same; and

storing program code means for storing said originality information when said
15 authentication program code means determines that said originality information is valid.

20

68. The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 67, further comprising program code means for deleting said originality information when said user apparatus sends said originality
25 information.

30

69. A computer readable medium storing program code for causing a computer in an original data circulation system to store or circulate original data which is digital information, said computer being used as a collector apparatus, said
35 computer readable medium comprising:

identifying program code means for identifying a source apparatus of originality

information;

authentication program code means for
authenticating said source apparatus; and

data processing program code means for
5 performing a process corresponding to said data or
data corresponding to said second information when
said authentication program code means determines
that said originality information which is sent to
said collector apparatus is valid.

10

70. The computer readable medium as
15 claimed in claim 69, further comprising:

program code means for storing or
obtaining issuer information;

said data processing program code means
including program code means for performing a
20 process corresponding to said data or data
corresponding to said second information when said
authentication program code means determines that
said originality information which is sent to said
collector apparatus is valid and when said issuer
25 apparatus corresponding to said first information is
included in said issuer information.

30

71. A computer readable medium storing
program code for causing computers in an original
data circulation system to store or circulate
original data which is digital information, said
35 computer readable medium comprising:

issuer program code means which is loaded
in an issuer apparatus, said issuer program code

means including:

first originality information generation
program code means for generating originality
information which includes first information

5 corresponding to said issuer apparatus and second
information corresponding to data or information
corresponding to the data; and

first originality information sending
program code means for sending said originality
10 information;

user program code means which is loaded in
a user apparatus, said user program code means
including:

first originality information sending
15 program code means for sending originality
information which includes first information
corresponding to an apparatus and second information
corresponding to data or information corresponding
to the data;

20 first identifying program code means for
identifying a source apparatus of said originality
information which is sent from an apparatus;

first authentication program code means
for determining that said originality information is
25 valid when said source apparatus is authenticated or
when said apparatus corresponding to said first
information and said source apparatus are the same;
and

storing program code means for storing
30 said originality information when said first
authentication program code means determines that
said originality information is valid; and

collector program code means which is
loaded in a collector apparatus, said collector
35 program code means including:

second identifying program code means for
identifying a source apparatus of originality

information;

second authentication program code means
for authenticating said source apparatus; and

data processing program code means for
5 performing a process corresponding to said data or
data corresponding to said second information when
said second authentication program code means
determines that said originality information which
is sent to said collector apparatus is valid.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An original data circulation system for storing or circulating original data which is digital information is provided. The original data
5 circulation system includes an issuer apparatus, a user apparatus and a collector apparatus. The issuer apparatus generates originality information including first information corresponding to the issuer apparatus and second information
10 corresponding to data and sends the originality information. The user apparatus verifies the validity of the source apparatus of the originality information and stores the originality information when the validity is verified. The collector
15 apparatus verifies the validity of the source apparatus of the originality information and processes data corresponding to the second information when the validity is verified.

20

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FIG. 1

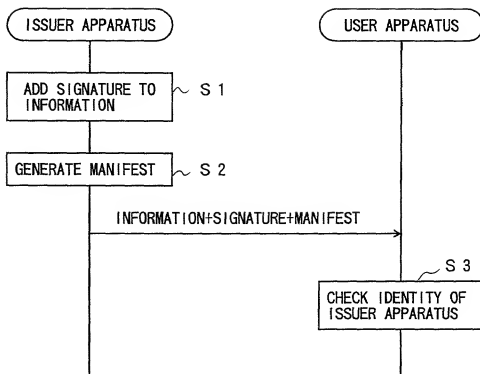


FIG. 2

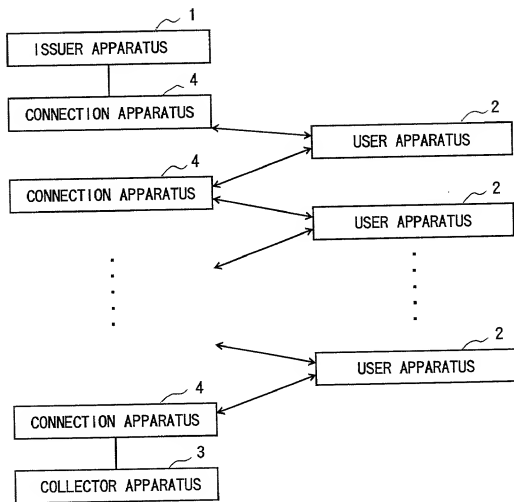


FIG. 3

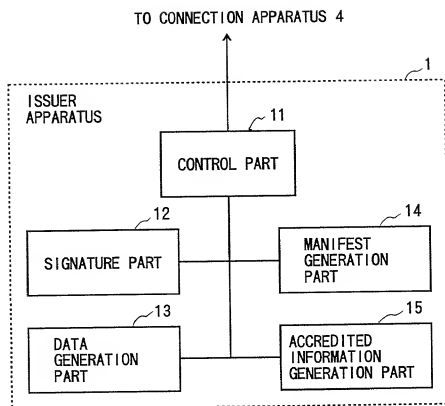


FIG. 4

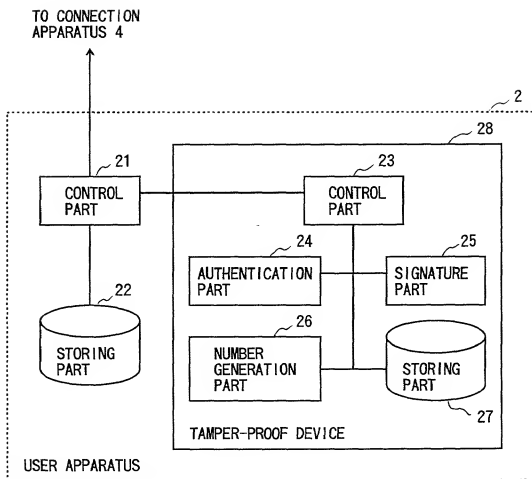


FIG. 5

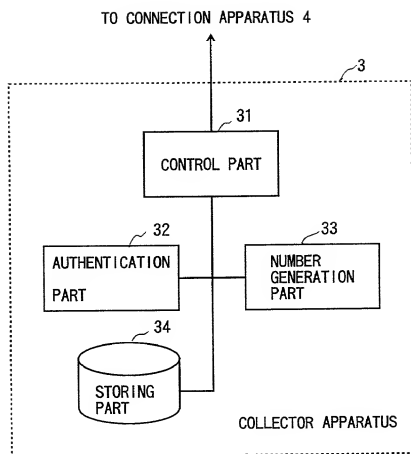


FIG. 6

TO ISSUER APPARATUS 1, USER APPARATUS 2, COLLECTOR APPARATUS 3

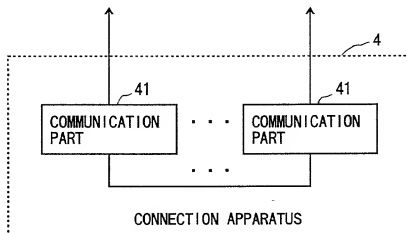


FIG. 7

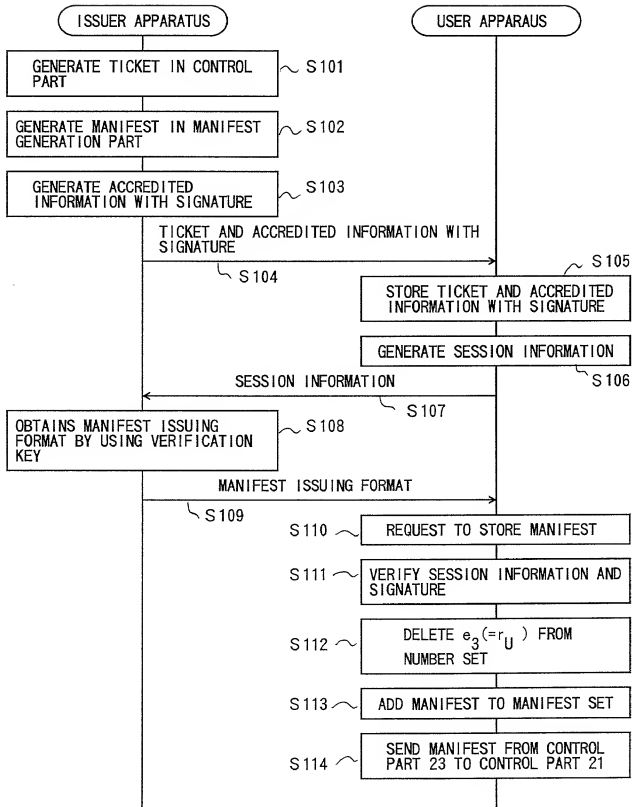


FIG. 8

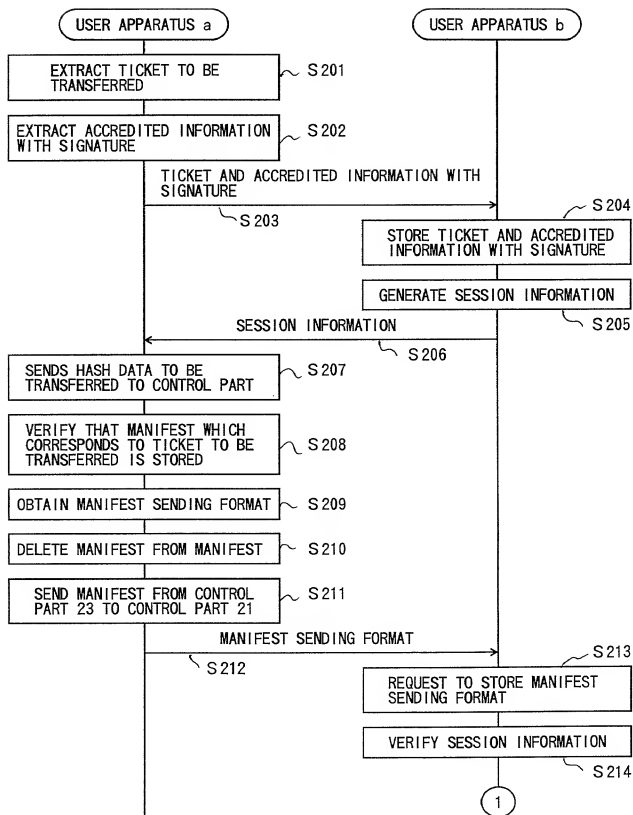


FIG. 9

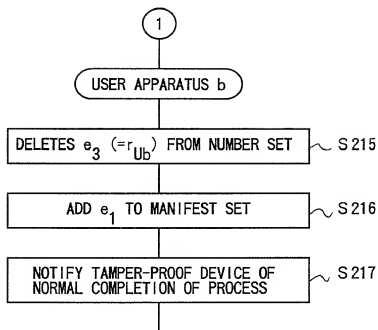


FIG. 10

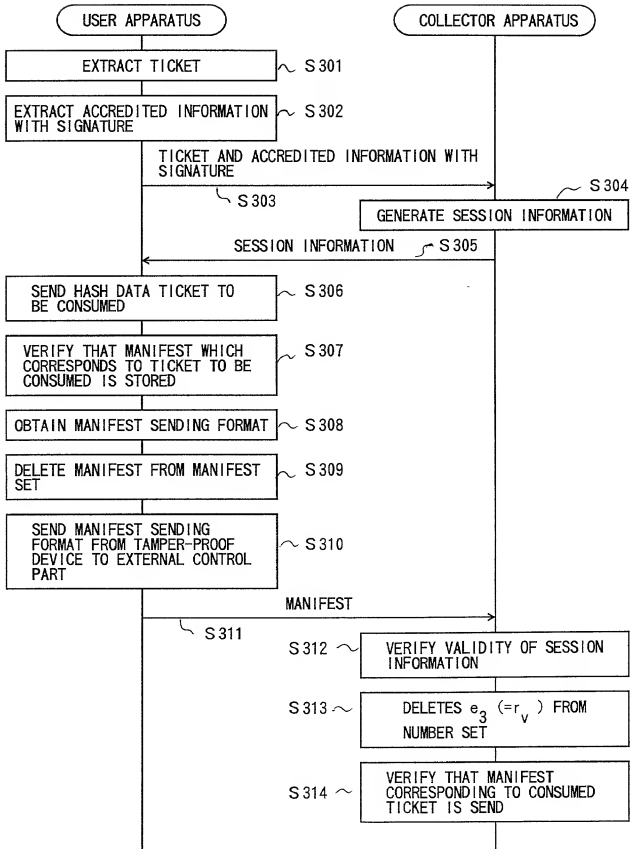


FIG. 11

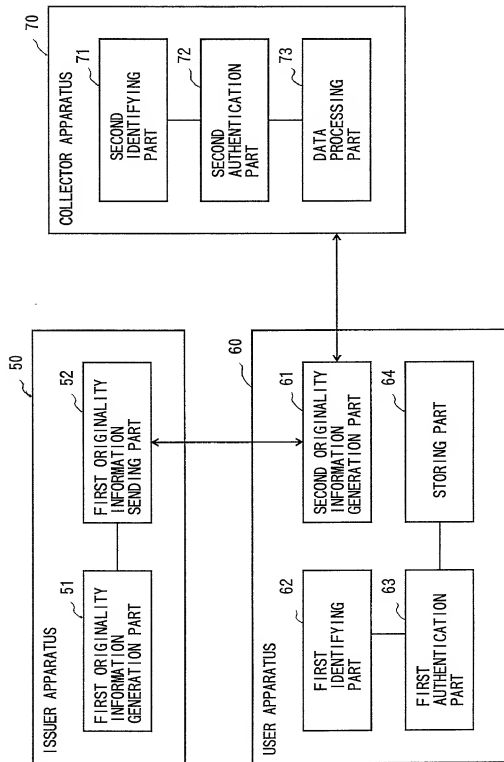


FIG. 12A

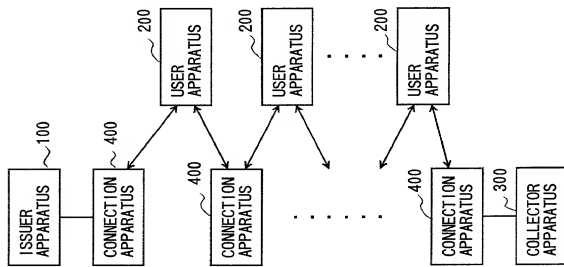


FIG. 12B

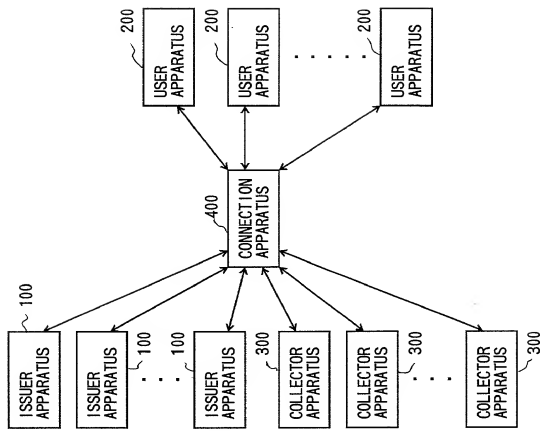


FIG. 13

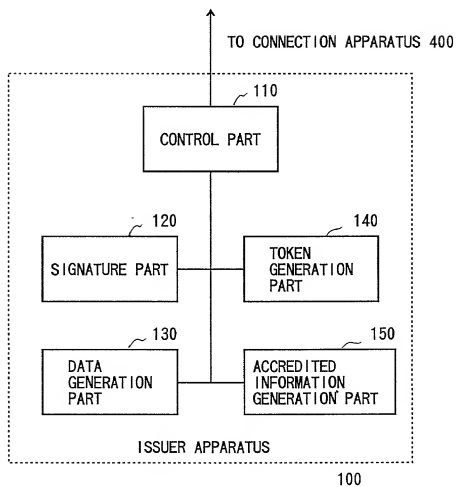


FIG. 14

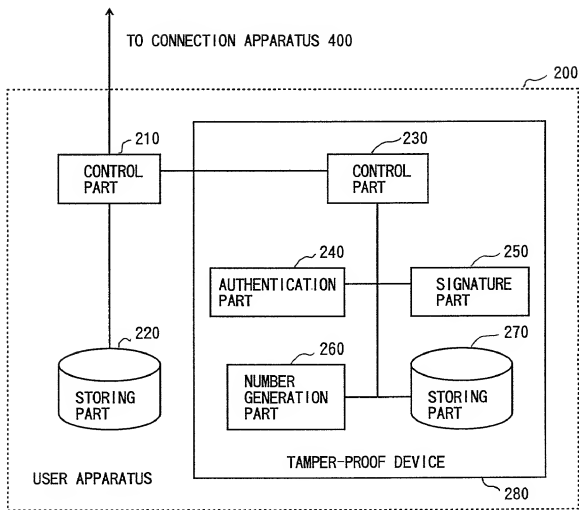


FIG. 15

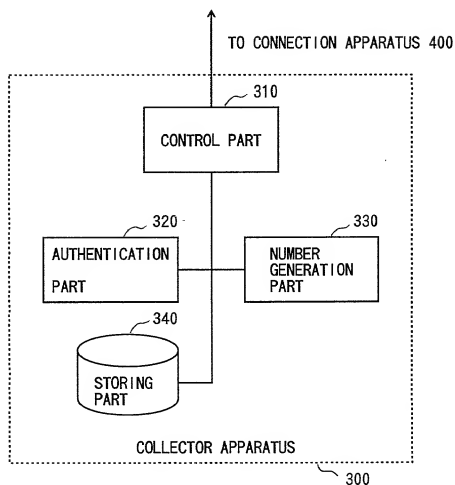


FIG. 16

TO ISSUER APPARATUS 1, USER APPARATUS 2, COLLECTOR APPARATUS 3

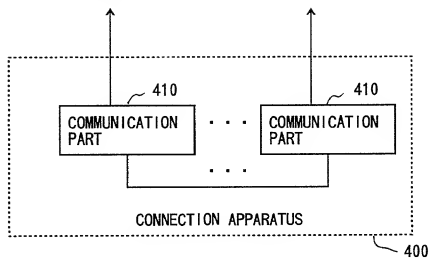


FIG. 17

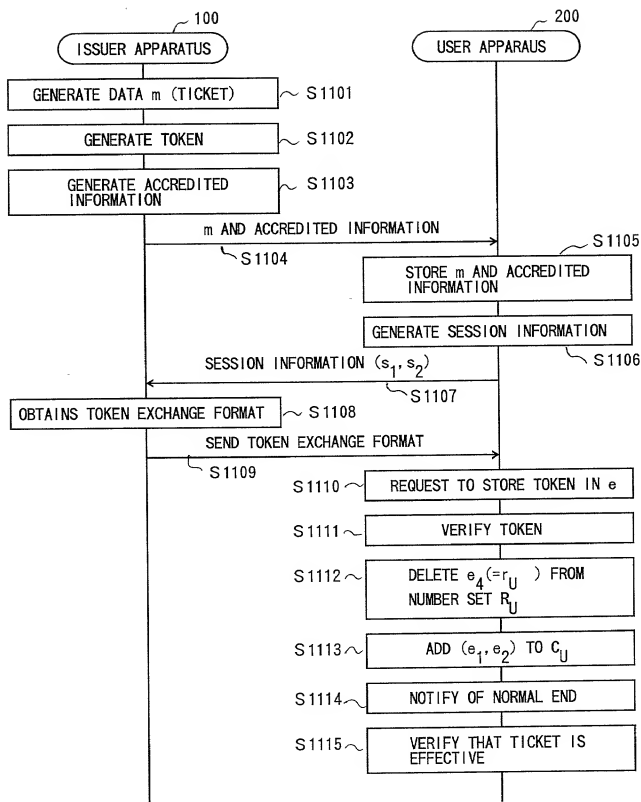


FIG. 18

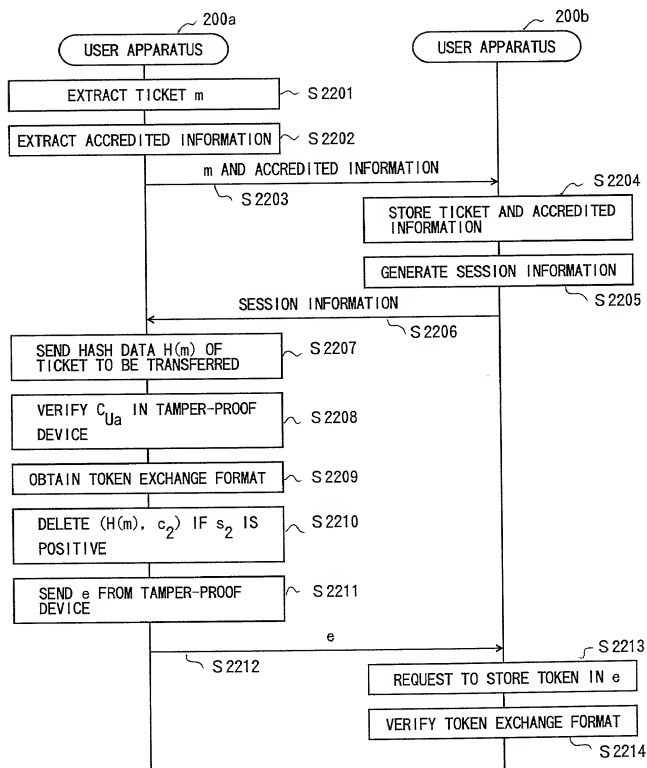


FIG. 19

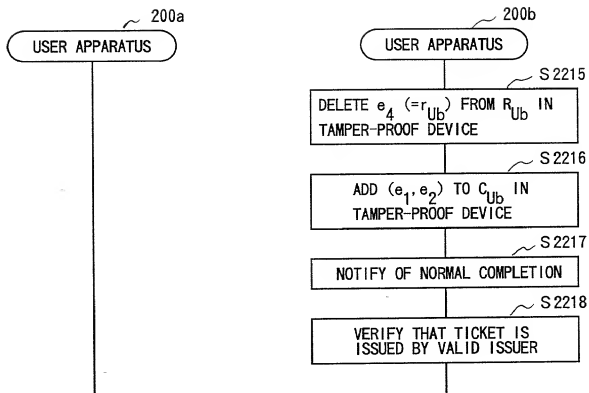


FIG. 20

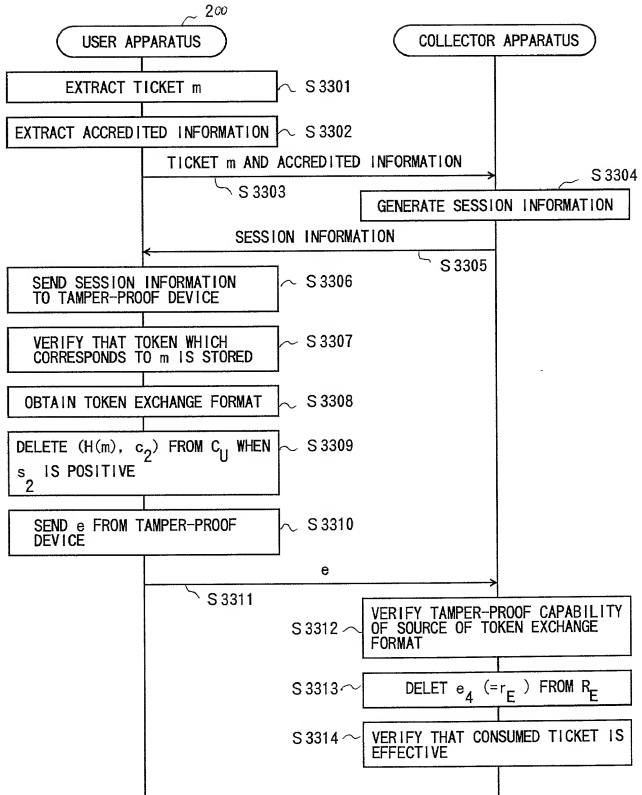
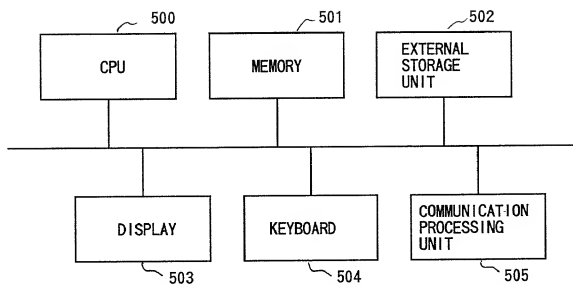


FIG. 21



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY - ORIGINAL APPLICATION

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.

10746/16

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled ORIGINAL DATA

CIRCULATION METHOD, SYSTEM, APPARATUS, AND COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUMthe specification of which
(check one)☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56(e).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING (day, month, year) | DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year) | PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC 119 |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Japan | Pat. Appln. No. 11-39080 | 17/Feb./99 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| Japan | Pat. Appln. No. 11-247457 | 01/Sep./99 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56(e) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE (day, month, year) | STATUS (i.e. Patented, Pending, Abandoned) |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (List name and registration number)

Edward W. Greason, Esq.
Reg. No. 18,918

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
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Edward W. Greason
(212) 425-7200 X108

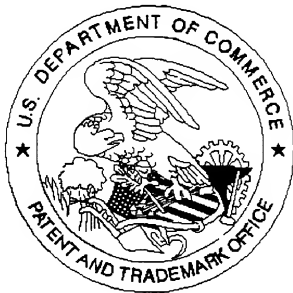
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| | POST OFFICE ADDRESS | POST OFFICE ADDRESS as per attached | CITY as per attached | STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY Japan |
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| | POST OFFICE ADDRESS | POST OFFICE ADDRESS as per attached | CITY as per attached | STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY Japan |
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| | POST OFFICE ADDRESS | POST OFFICE ADDRESS as per attached | CITY as per attached | STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY Japan |
| 205 | FULL NAME OF INVENTOR | FAMILY NAME | FIRST GIVEN NAME | SECOND GIVEN NAME |
| | RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP | CITY | STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY | COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP |
| | POST OFFICE ADDRESS | POST OFFICE ADDRESS | CITY | STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY |
| 206 | FULL NAME OF INVENTOR | FAMILY NAME | FIRST GIVEN NAME | SECOND GIVEN NAME |
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| | POST OFFICE ADDRESS | POST OFFICE ADDRESS | CITY | STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY |

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201 <i>Masayuki Terada</i> | SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202 <i>Ko Fujimura</i> | SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203 <i>Hiroshi Kuno</i> |
| DATE February 3, 2000 | DATE February 3, 2000 | DATE February 3, 2000 |
| SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204 <i>Masayuki Hanadate</i> | SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205 | SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206 |
| DATE February 3, 2000 | DATE | DATE |

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